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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!

MARVEL AGE®

52
JULY
ONLY 50¢

SPECIAL SILVER SURFER™ ISSUE!

MARSHALL '87

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Hey, I forgot to tell you where the hidden message in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #50 was! Of course, many sharp-eyed True Believers already found our sneaky secret message which was carefully concealed in the spine between pages 12 and 13 or pages 20 and 21 depending on how your issue was bound. The rest of you can relax now. We didn't mean to prolong the suspense, we simply forgot to mention it last issue. You can find out more details about our soon-to-be-deceased New Universe super-star in next issue's cover story about this year's summer Annuals. Our in-depth coverage of the mighty Marvel Annuals has become an annual tradition, and we're sure you won't want to miss it!

Last issue, we proudly listed the names of the many hard-working men and women of the Chemical Color Corporation, who produce the color separations for most of Marvel's comics. Well, that was just part of the story. We'd like to also list the names of the unsung heroes that actually print the comics at World Color Press located in lovely Sparta, Illinois. These ink-stained individuals are used to the din of the printing press, but hardly ever get to hear a kind word for all their labor. So on behalf of everyone at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE let's hear it for:

R. Craig, D. Hubert, R. Lashbrook, G. Bollinger, M. Galbraith, A. Gasser, R. Clark, H. Rury, D. Fastenau, A. Hoffman, S. Wilson, L. Loucks, J. Rennison, A. Dickey, C. Faucett, J. Barber, H. Hill, R. Odom, S. Hartman, J. McGill, E. Bluff, J. Jordon, R. Kellerman, A. Bowles, W. Dietz, C. Buritsch, J. Fowler, T. Belton, M. Hickerson, E. Morrison, R. Gieselmann Jr., S. Schenke, F. Buschschulte, J. Bush, W. Larison, T. Maybell, J. Wilson, D. Hester, C. Wilson, J. Hogrefe, M. Myers, R. Edwards, R. Carrothers, J. Falkenhein, G. Miesner, W. Stear, J. Wasson, C. Schuessler, D. Johnson, I. Eggemeyer, A. Wolf, L. Sullivan, G. Killgrove, A. Bagley, P. Beck, J. Rebouche, D. Ashley, R. Yeager, M.A. Shaffer, L. Pfau, J. Jeremiah, G. Stork, L. Korando, B. Vordtriede, V. Lacy, B. Amos, K. Thies, G. Ervin, D. Behiter, J. Burns, A. Wilson, J. Straight, C. Gualdoni, F. Kreher, M. Rigsby, R. Brown, D. Birchler, B. Gilter, A. Fries, L. Boston, W. Conners Sr., G. Lake, W. Taylor, C. Atwood, D. Nehring, W. Eggemeyer, O. Bockhorn, M. Szostak, D. Falletta, T. Winkelmann, K. Diskey, E. Cochran, W. Zimmer, V. Harwerth, J. Roethlisberger, E. Lehnhoff, R. Dierks, M. Smith, J. Steele, N. Wilkerson, D. Thompson, E. Wunderlich, T. Wingerter, C. Walker, S. Krug, C. Fortner, D. Scanlan, P. LeSaulnier, S. Wagner, B. Gualdoni, B. Kohm, B. Sutterer, S. Diercks, M. Penford, S. Harris, S. McCartney, M. Hobeck, J. Burns, B. Kohn, A. Fromme, N. Walker, C. Preston, S. Johnson, M. Krantz, S. Zimmerman, C. Schmidt, W. Huffhine, G. Ledbetter, R. McFadden, M.J. McKinley, L. Walker, K. Jacoby, D. Wagner, R. Valleroy, K. Fudge, R. McDaniel, T. Adams, D. Wittenborn, S. Denault, J. Gremmels, S. Ramsey, M. Dierks, C. Hartenberger, G. Ebers, S. Mueller, D. Douglas, D. Bumann, R. Krantz, R. Schoenbeck, S. Braun, B. Gremmels, G. Kloth, E. Walker, B. Haslett, E. Glaspy, D. Picker, V. Morrison, A. Castens, O. Alms, A. Nelson, B. Mattingly, S. Burns, F. Walters, K. Kempfer, H. Woods, S. Melton, C. Bowlin, J. McKinstry, D. Niemeyer, S. Sharrock, P. Hayer, J. Eaton, L. Wheat, D. Hubler, M. Lukes, T. Smith, J. Piller, T. Thies, L. Luthy, M. Mohr, S. Denault, J. Keller, V. Frech, B. Boyd, M. Surmeier, D. Rountree, J. Pullins, R. Rezba, J. Mathis, S. Burns, S. Blechle, G. Folden, J. Stewart, B. Runge, L. Bingel, G. Galle, G. Welten, L. Reid, B. Oetjen, L. Moeller, K. Lewis, J. Galle, M. McKinley, C. Kessel, C. Hooten, D. Holmes, R. Clay, J. Black, F. Sterns, L. Spreitler, W. Hecht, J. Rice, T. Woolsey, V. Peters, G. Beard, E. Ebersohl, D. Schumer, R. Green, O. Sieberg, M.D. Eggemeyer, B. Jeffers, W. Smith, H. Lloyd, L. Meyerhoff, B. Dippel, M. Knop, D. Smith, W. Smith, R. McNalley, R. Chandler, R. Cane, M. Williams, A. Mitchell, C. Lea, P. Littlepage, D. Elsea, H. Fedderke, E. Wolters, J. Smith, E. Byram, E. Lakeman, R. Fedderke, P. Piller, M. Bruno.

And that was just the comic book workers during the week of February 2nd! Thanks, all of you, for a job well done! Let's face it—there simply wouldn't be any comic books without our peerless printers!

—Jim Salicrup

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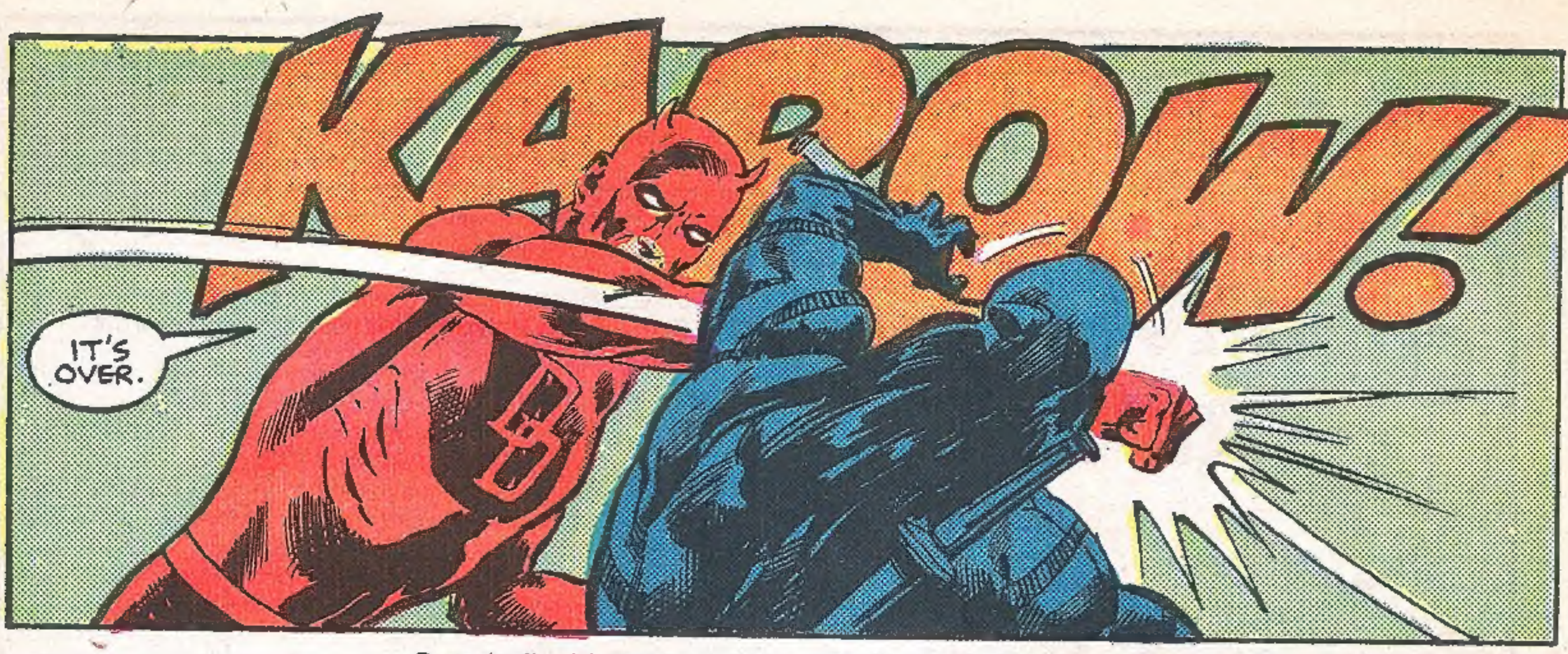
MARVEL®

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The debut of **SILVERHAWKS, FLINTSTONE KIDS,** and **FOOFURS!** The fate of the Thunder God and the incredible climax to the Asgard/Frost Giants War happens in **THOR!** And wait'll you see who ties up New York City traffic in **FALLEN ANGELS!** That's just a glimpse of the wild and wooly things heading your way next month. Don't miss out on any of it—tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles today!

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **July** cover date.

The New Hulk—more savage than ever!



Daredevil adds some punch to his pithy pronouncement.

Titles Shipping April 7
On Sale April 28

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #54—A **New Mutant** quits the team—permanently! But that's not the only stunner! Wait'll you see what happens when **the New Mutants** square off against their arch-rivals, **the Hellions**—and then have to fight **the Viper** and **the Silver Samurai**! "Ratrace" is written by **Chris Claremont** and guest-penciled by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **HUGGA BUNCH** #6—The fabulous land of **the Huggas** is disappearing, piece by piece! **The Hugga Bunch** launches a desperate race against time to find out who is stealing their homeland and why in "Mystery Of Hugga-Dise Lost." Written by **Tony Franco**, penciled by **John Costanza**, inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**, and cover by **Warren Kremer**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #14—It looks as if Third Earth is about to fall to the enemies of **the Thundercats** for **Lion-O** and all his mighty friends are now helpless prisoners! Only the meekest **Thundercat** of all, **Snarf**, is left to try and stop the scourge of tyranny about to enslave Third Earth. With the whole world depending on him, "Snarf Takes Up The Challenge!" Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Al Gordon**. A Star comic. $1.00.

new universe™

☐ **NIGHTMASK** #10—**Nightmask** embarks on an unorthodox background check through the dream world of his friend, **Doctor Lucian Ballad**, and discovers a terrifying hidden world of superstition and death in "Voodoo in Washington." Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **PSI FORCE** #10—The teenage **Psi Force** secretly visits the reservation of their murdered mentor, **Proudhawk**, to learn from his grandmother the purpose of the mysterious **Psi Hawk**! What they discover is more than what they bargained for! "Answers" is written by **Danny Fingeroth** and penciled by **Rod Whigham**. 75¢.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #9—With Mankind's war against the invading alien **Horde** at a stalemate, a lost member of Earth's super heroic **Strikeforce: Morituri** discovers a secret that could destroy the group's loyalty to humanity! The aliens' Grand Inquisitor **the Gentle Inquirer** possesses a cure for the fatal side-effects of the Morituri process . . and he's got proof that it works—a surviving member of Morituri's predecessors, **the Black Watch**! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Willia** 75¢.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #245—He is a friend of **the Fantastic Four's**, the African king of the legendary Wakandas, and one of the most respected **Avengers** ever! He's **the Black Panther**! And he's returned to New York City on a desperate rescue mission and only **Daredevil**, the guardian of Hell's Kitchen, can help him! "Burn It Up" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Chuck Patton**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #6—The **G.I. Joe** survival training course is tough—but not even it can compare to the dangers the Joe, **Outback**, must face in the wilderness alone, weaponless—with the enemy hot on his trail! A gut-grabbing tie-in with **G.I. JOE** #60. Written by **Larry Hama** and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. Cover by **Mike Zeck**. $1.00.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #23—**The West Coast Avengers** return to their rightful place in time! Wait'll you see how they do it! Plus: **Mockingbird's** final showdown with **the Phantom Rider**! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #29—With the devastating Berlin debacle still haunting him, **Spider-Man** discovers that the mutant **Wolverine** is more than an **X-Man** of his word when the mutant carries out a promise he made to the wall-crawler in the Soviet cemetery at Treptow. "Mask" is the gripping follow-up to the adventure begun in **SPIDER-MAN VERSUS WOLVERINE** #1. Written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Steve Geiger**, and inked by **Art Nichols**. 75¢.

Titles Shipping April 14
On Sale May 5

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #49—Meet the amazing Master of Self- Evolution—**Mannikin**! He's here just in time, for the all-new **Box** needs all the help he can get to battle **Alpha Flight's** greatest foe, **Omega**! Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **June Brigman**, and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #332—In the darkest days of World War II, the U.S. Army created their greatest soldier, **Captain America**. Now, over forty years later, they're laying down the law! Will **Cap** obey their orders? And if he doesn't—what then? "The Choice" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. 75¢.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.
A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.
A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #5**—When **Devil Dinosaur**, a giant red tyrannosaurus, arrives in modern-day New York City the result can only be . . . ultimate mayhem! "Lost And Found" is written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Joe Staton**, and inked by **Val Mayerik**. 75¢.

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☐ **KICKERS INC. #10**—The **Kickers** find themselves duped into a kill-or-be-killed confrontation in Central America with revolutionaries. Who sent them? The organization they trusted most—the United States government! "Deadly Force" is written by **Adam Blaustein**, penciled by **Rod Whigham**, and inked by **Tony DeZuniga**. 75¢.

☐ **THE MERC #10**—**Mark Hazzard's** friends, **Griffin, Mal**, and **the Sgt. Major**, create a special mercenary squad to free **Mark** from an Iranian prison before the religious revolutionaries torture him to death! "Iran Slam" is written by **Doug Murray** and illustrated by **Gray Morrow**. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #30**—What is stupider than **Groo**? A dog that thinks **Groo**, the world's klutziest barbarian, is a hero! If you thought **Groo** had been in trouble before, wait until you see the mess **Rufferto**, the dog gets him into here! "Rufferto Part II" is written and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** with kibitzing by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF #17**—The costumed critter is called **the Masked Moocher**! Is he a hero—or is he a villain? Whoever—whatever—he is, he's got the whole neighborhood up in arms! And only **Heathcliff** knows his secret! "The Masked Moocher" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **POWER PACK #31**—**Alex Power's** war on drugs reaches a devastating climax when he attacks one of the most notorious crack houses in New York City! Introducing . . . **Trash**, a pre-teen group of super-powered street-wise hellions out to nail **Power Pack's** hides to the wall! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Hilary Barta**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #5**—Introduce your little brother or sister to the fun-packed Star Universe with this lively anthology magazine featuring the best stories from **HEATHCLIFF, TOP DOG**, and **MUPPET BABIES**. Plus, a special **CARE BEARS** tale never before seen in America! A Star Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #291**—**Mary Jane Watson's** life is in turmoil—and **Peter Parker** is the cause! While **Mary Jane** tries to sort out what she will do next, **Spider-Man** finds himself face-to-face with a deadly new **Spider-Slayer**! "Dark Journey" is written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES #5**—The exciting series that each issue presents two tales for the price of one continues!

Doctor Strange's efforts to harness the black magic he has unleashed in himself are dangerously threatened when he is attacked by his one-time friend, **Valkyrie** and her **New Defenders**! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Larry Alexander**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**.

Cloak and **Dagger** confront the monstrous child-snatcher known as . . . **Rodent**. Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Brett Blevins**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

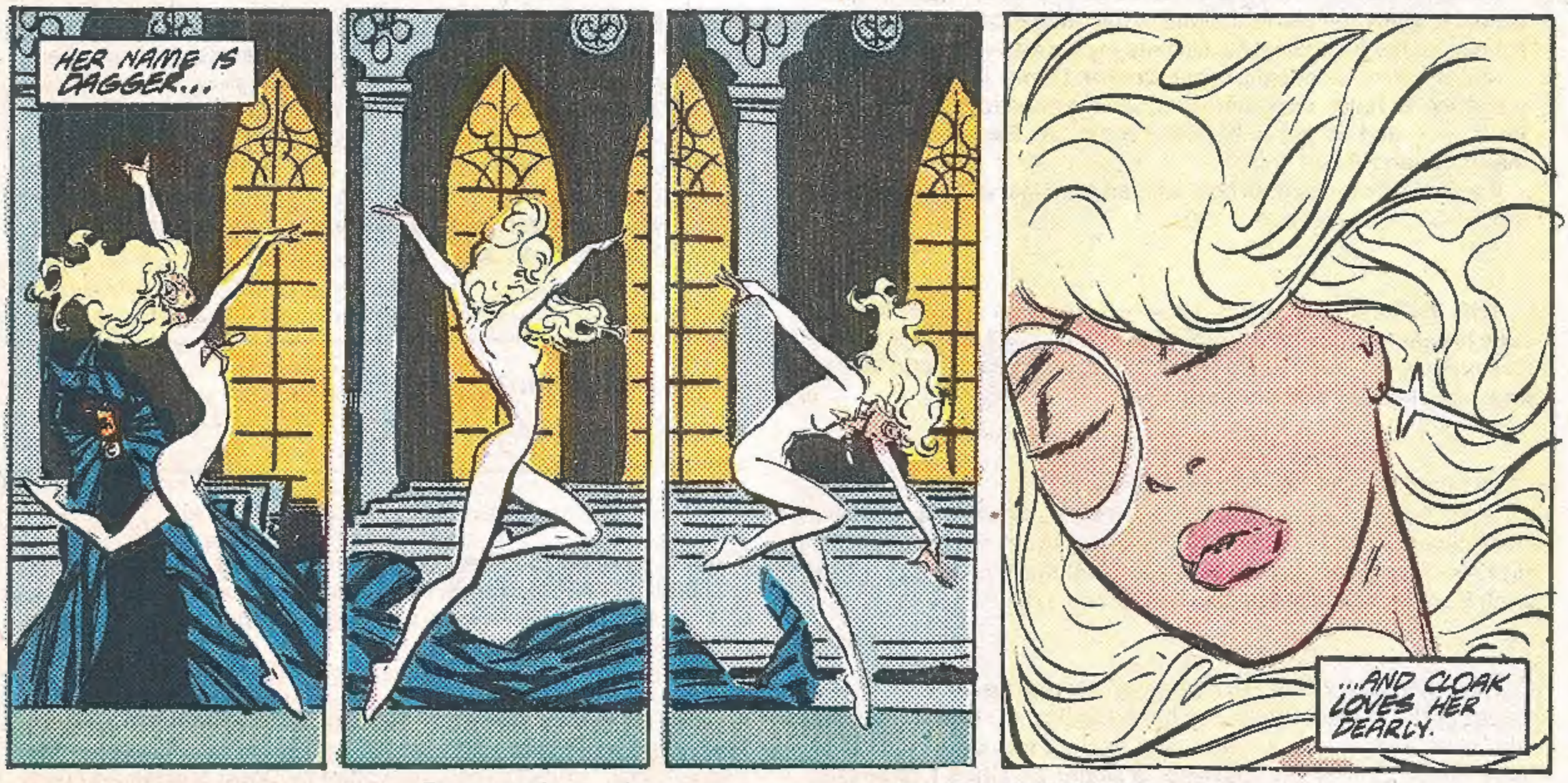
☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #138**—**Conan** quits his life as a hard-pressed mercenary on the bloody Pictish frontier for the promise of gem-laden wealth deep in Pictish territory. But secretly behind the quest for fabulous jewels is the warrior-woman **Conan** loves to hate, **Valeria** of the Red Brotherhod! Written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Gary Kwapisz**, and inked by **Ernie Chan**. A Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

Titles Shipping April 21
On Sale May 12

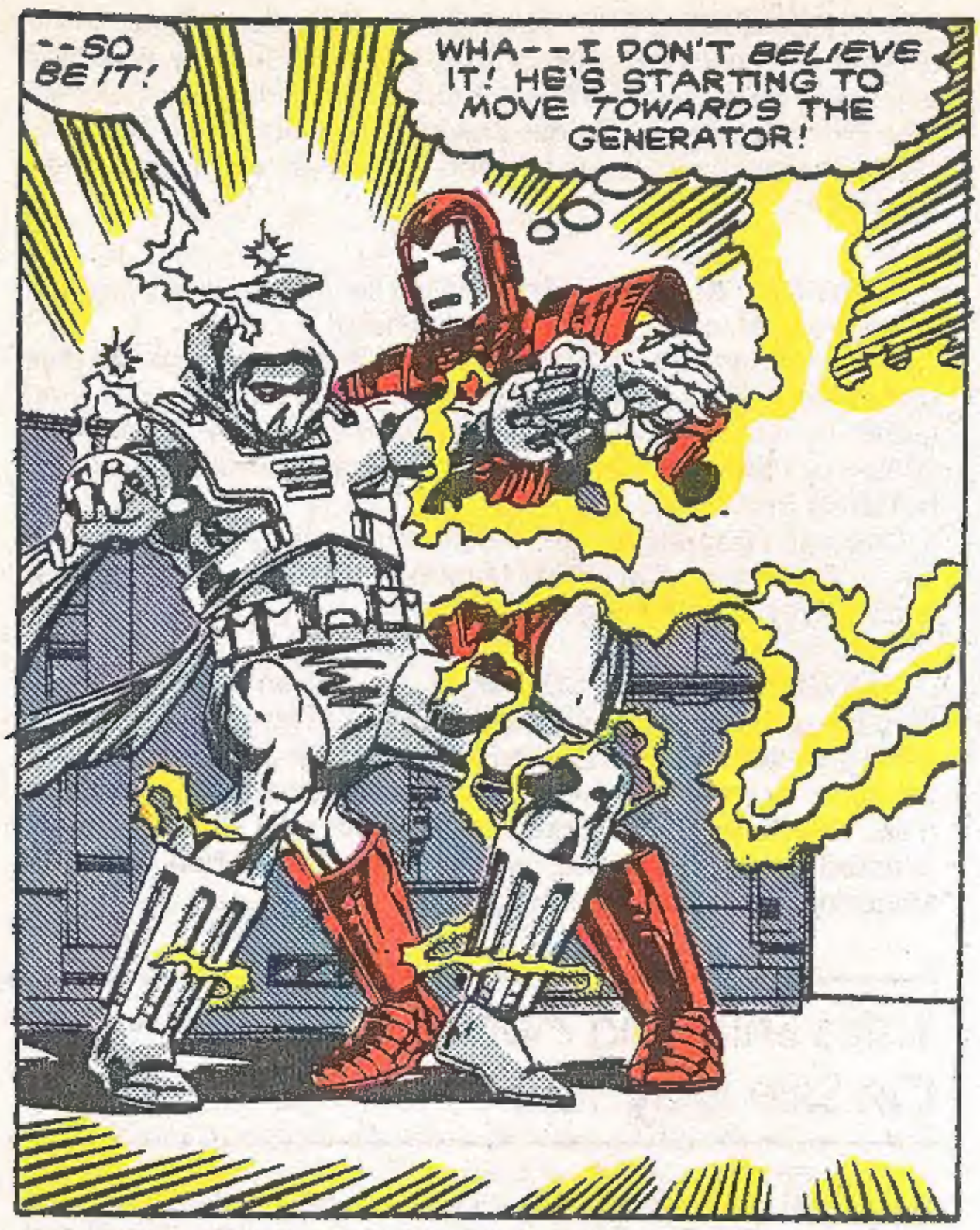
☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #53**—Because you demanded it—our Summer Fun Special returns! Find out about all the Marvel *and* New Universe annuals! Check out the latest doings at Epic and Star! And don't miss out on the other fun features we've got lined up—**Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, and much, much more! Direct Sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS #282**—**The Sub-Mariner** returns to **the Avengers** and joins them in an all-out battle against the Greek gods to free their fellow **Avenger, Hercules**! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #202**—**Spider-Man** and **Captain Britain** are trapped in the bizarre, escape-proof maze of **Arcade's** "Murder World." Reprinted from **MARVEL TEAM-UP #66** written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. Plus: an all-new back-up tale featuring **Peter Porker, the Spectacular Spider-Ham**! Written by **Steve Mellor**, penciled by **Joe Albelo**, and inked by **Pierre Fournier**. 75¢.



Dagger tries to dance away her cares in STRANGE TALES.



Shellhead gets into a shocking final battle with the Ghost in IRON MAN.

☐ **MARVEL SAGA #21**—Just how well does the Marvel Universe tie in with itself? The answer to this, and hundreds of other questions is here, in the ultimate chronicle of the linear history of the Marvel Universe!

The Fantastic Four battle almost overwhelming odds to defeat **the Frightful Four** and end **the Thing's** rampage against them!

An ambitious mortal unleashes the indestructable **Destroyer**—a creation of **Odin's** that not even his son, **Thor**, can stop! And as **Thor** battles **the Destroyer, Loki** and **the Absorbing Man** launch their ultimate plot to oust **Odin** and rule Asgard!

One of the most dangerous team-ups in the history of the Marvel Universe happens when **the Hulk** sides with **the Leader**!

Doctor Strange finally achieves his goal . . . and meets the indescribable **Eternity**! But at the end of that audience he finds himself fighting for his life against his ultimate mystic foe—**Dormammu**!

And if you're wondering what **Doctor Doom** is doing . . . he's preparing to hatch his greatest scheme to destroy **the Fantastic Four** yet—and it's set to happen on the day **Reed Richards** will marry **Susan Storm**!

Written by **Peter Sanderson**, with art from Marvel's greatest illustrators! 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK #334**—**Hulk** faces a villain that not even his gamma-powered strength can destroy—**Half-Life**! "Grave Circumstances" is written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Jim Sanders**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER #2**—**The Silver Surfer** returns to the world of his birth, Zenn-La, at last! But instead of the paradise he once knew, he discovers a planet on the verge of being swept into the annihilating Kree-Skrull War! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 75¢.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN #220**—**Wolverine** becomes the new leader of **the X-Men**! What's happened to **Storm**? **Forge**, the man who stole her powers, knows—and he's not telling until he's sure she's dead! "Unfinished Business" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #197**—A campaign of terror against him forces **Conan** into an even deadlier trap—one which not even the strong sword-arm of **Red Sonja** can help! "Stand" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **FLINTSTONE KIDS #1**—It's **Fred Flintstone, Barney Rubble, Wilma**, and **Betty**—you laughed at their Stone Age antics as adults, now see what they were like as kids! Will friendships be sacrificed for votes? That's just the least of the problems that crop up when **Fred** and **Barney** compete for the same classroom office in "Prehistoric Politics." Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **FOOFUR #1**—The fun in funny animal comics is alive and well—in **FOOFUR**! The dynamite animated television show about the wacky antics of a pack of dogs and one cat in an abandoned mansion on the real estate market is now a new laugh-packed series from Star! Meet **Foofur, Fencer, Burt, Dolly, Hazel, Fritz-Carlos** and the harried **Mrs. Eserow** and get ready to enjoy one of the wackiest origin stories of the year! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Ben Brown**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE #62**—The **Joes, Stalker, Quick Kick, Outback** and **Snow Job**, go on trial as spies in a foreign land—and it seems America is going to do nothing to save them! "Transit" is written by **Larry Hama** and penciled by **William Johnson**. $1.00.

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☐ **JUSTICE #10**—**Justice** must defend Earth from a renegade band of evil justice warriors from his home planet. Scripted by **Gerry Conway**, plotted and penciled by **Keith Giffen**, and inked by **Vince Colletta**. 75¢.

☐ **D.P. 7 #10**—**D.P. 7's** tower of strength, **David Landers**, is forced to make a fateful decision—free his friends from the sinister **Clinic**, or save himself! For as strong as he is, **David** fears he does not have the power to do both! "Orphans" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 75¢.

☐ **SILVERHAWKS #1**—Part metal, part real, they're the amazing soaring security force of space—**the Silverhawks**! And now these amazing heroes of the hit television animation show are in their own action-packed Star comic! Meet **Commander Stargazer, Lieutenant Quicksilver, Bluegrass, Sgt. Steelheart, Sgt. Steelwill**, and **the Copper Kidd** and discover why they must defend the galaxy from Intergalactic Public Enemy No. 1—**Mon*Starr**! Written by **Steve Perry**, penciled by **Mike Witherby**, and inked by **Jim Sanders**. A Star comic. $1.00.

Titles Shipping April 28
On Sale May 19

☐ **IRON MAN #221**—**Tony Stark** is back in his **Iron Man** armor and this time he's going to get **the Ghost**—but good! Co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM #9**—It's war at its most brutal level when **Cpl. Ed Marks** and his friends are thrust into one of the worst battles of the Vietnam War. "Pride Cometh" is written by **Doug Murray** and penciled by **Michael Golden**. 75¢.

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☐ **CODENAME: SPITFIRE #11**—**Jenny "Spitfire" Swensen** has the brains to be a top intelligence agent, but does she also have the cold-blooded nerve? The CIA must know now—and they're betting her partner's life on the answer! "No Win" is written by **Fabian Nicieza** and penciled by **Grant Miehan**. 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #305**—Get set for a shocker! **Crystal the Inhuman** vs. her now-evil husband the mutant **Quicksilver!** Plus: who will be in the new **Fantastic Four?** "All In The Family" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #129**—Who's side is **the Black Cat** really on? With the law hot on his trail for a murder he knows he didn't commit—but cannot prove—**Spider-Man** discovers the shocking truth! Plus: the debut of **Black Cat's** new costume! "Spider-Hunt" is written by **Peter David**, penciled and inked by **Alan Kupperberg**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN SAGA #1**—Sword-and-sorcery's greatest hero in his first adventures! Discover why **Conan** became the greatest barbarian hero of all time in this special black-and-white anthology magazine. Reprinting from CONAN THE BARBARIAN #s 1, 2, and 3 "The Coming Of Conan," "Lair Of The Beast-Men," and "The Twilight Of The Grim Grey God" written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **Barry Windsor-Smith**, and inked by **Dan Adkins** and **Sal Buscema**. Plus: a new cover painting and interior art by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. A Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR #19**—Their morale is devastated! Their solidarity is in shambles! If **X-Factor** should quit now, who will defend humanity from **the Horsemen of the Apocalypse?** Written by **Louise Simonson**, guest-penciled by **Sal Buscema**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **THE PUNISHER #2**—**The Punisher's** personal war against the cocaine czars forces him to secretly leave the States and strike at the source—Bolivia! Written by **Mike Baron**, and illustrated by **Klaus Janson**. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST #25**—**The Wolfriders** discover new friends where they thought none could exist—friends whose help they will sorely need because their enemies **the Trolls** are on the march against them! Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini**, and illustrated by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **MADBALLS #5**—Meet the newest, wildest **Madballs** ever—**Goat Eater, Touchdown Terror,** and **Foul Shot!** What they've got planned for the world of sports is something only the **Madballs** would dare do! "And Three make Nineteen" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post** and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS #31**—**The Decepticons** open car wash stations all across the country! Have they truly flipped their lids? All we can say here is, don't dare drive *your* car in—not unless you want a whole new outlook on life—and a hatred of **the Autobots**, too! "Buster Witwicky and the Car Wash of Doom" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

☐ **THOR #382**—The searing conclusion to the Asgard/Frost Giants War! *And* the world-wrecking final battle between **Thor** and **Hela** in Hel! It's one slam-bang double-sized epic celebration of the three hundredth appearance of **Thor** in his comic book which originally burst on the scene as JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY! Written by **Walter Simonson** and illustrated by **Sal Buscema**. $1.25

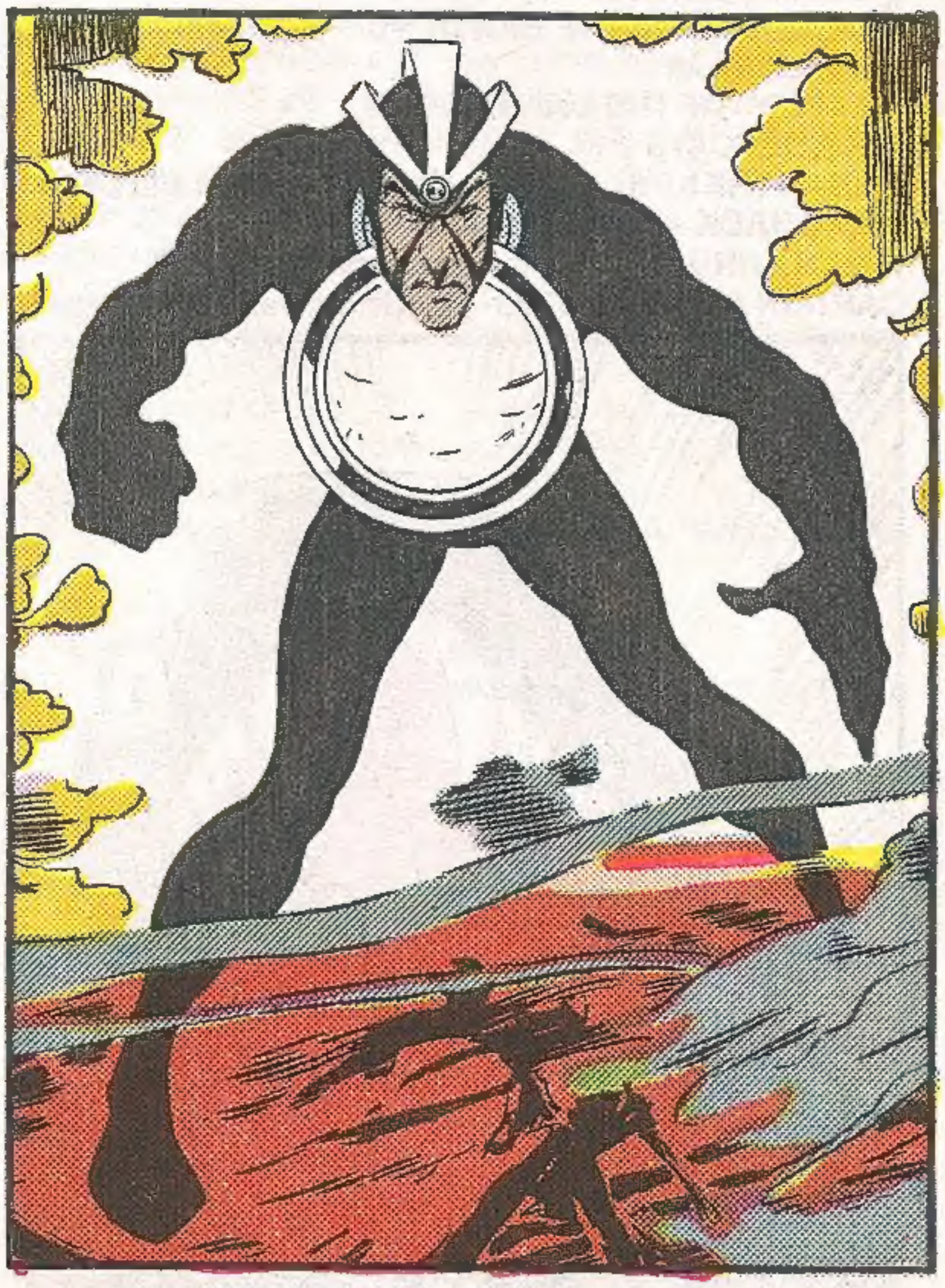
☐ **G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #5**—The early adventures o **the G.I. Joes** re-presented in a special pocket-sized anthology edition! From **G.I. JOE** #s 12, 13, and 14, "Three Strikes For Snake Eyes," "Last Train From Rio Lindo," and "Destro Attacks" are written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mike Vosburg**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #17**—From **Destiny** to **Jocasta**, the chronicles of all the deceased super heroes and villains continue. Written by **Peter Sanderson**, penciled by **Bill Sienkiewicz, Walter Simonson, John Buscema, Kevin Nowland, John Byrne** and many others, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 64 pages. $1.50

☐ **ALIEN LEGION #20**—When a **Legionnaire** goes AWOL, **Commander Torie Montroc** finds himself fighting a losing battle to find him and keep him from the clutches of the Legion's merciless **Grimrod**. Written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $1.75.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #2**—From **THE AVENGERS** #s 24–46, complete story and art credits, lively story synposes, and full-page color cover reproductions. The ultimate reference for **Avengers** fans everywhere! Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. 48 pages. Baxter paper. $2.95.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #12**—The **New X-Men** meet for the first time the malevolent master of magnetism—**Magneto!** Reprinted from **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #104, "The Gentleman's Name Is Magneto" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Dave Cockrum**, and inked by **Sam Grainger**. Plus: an all-new **Magneto** tale written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages $1.00.



Havok becomes a new X-Man—but he doesn't look happy about it!

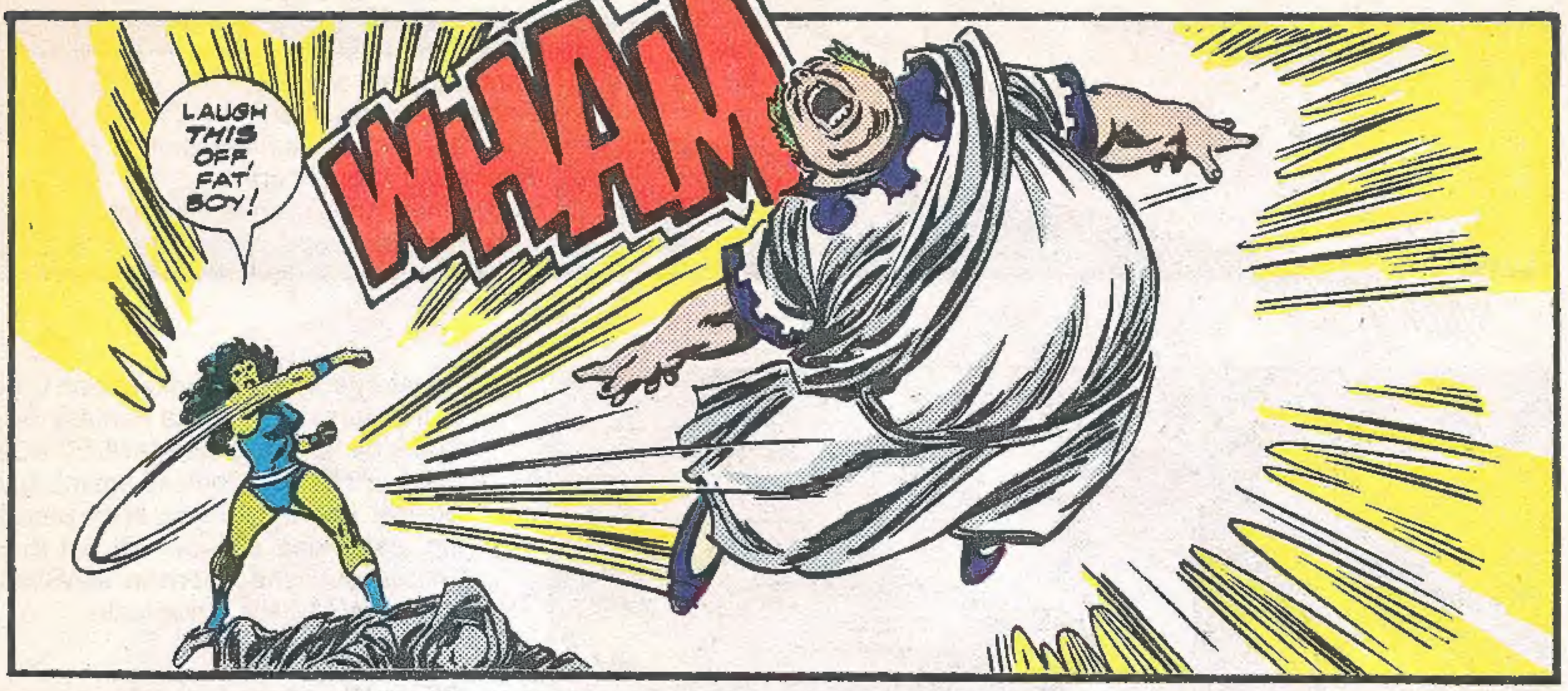
MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping May

DAREDEVIL #246—by **Nocenti, Williams,** and **DeZuniga.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #10—by **Gillis, Anderson,** and **Williamson.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #55—by **L. Simonson, Bievins,** and **Williamson.**
NIGHTMASK #11—by **Thomas, Baker,** and **DeZuniga.**
PSI FORCE #11—by **McCormick-Lowy** and **Hall.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #30—by **Owsley, Geiger,** and **Colletta.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #24—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Sinnott.**
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #5—by **Higgins, Saviuk,** and **Fredericks.**
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #9
THUNDERCATS #15
CONAN THE KING #42—by **Kraar, Docherty,** and **Bator.**
VIDEO JACK #1—by **Bates** and **Giffen.**
X-MEN ANNUAL #11—by **Claremont** and **Davis.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #333—by **Gruenwald** and **Morgan.**

Keith Remsen falls into a real nightmare in NIGHTMASK.

FALLEN ANGELS #6—by **Duffy, Staton,** and **Palmer.**
KICKERS, INC. #11—by **Zimmerman** and **Anderson.**
THE MERC #11—by **Murray** and **Morrow.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292—by **Michelinie, Romita Jr.,** and **Layton.**
STRANGE TALES #6—by **Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo,** and **Bievins.**
CHUCK NORRIS KARATE KOMMANDOS #5—by **Mackie, Saviuk,** and **de la Rosa.**
EWOKS #15—by **Manak, Kremer,** and **D'Agostino.**
GROO THE WANDERER #31—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE #3—by **Gallagher, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #50—by **Mantlo, Shoemaker,** and **Portacio.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #2—by **Englehart** and **Milgrom.**
SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE #5—by **Lee, Romita Sr., Heck,** and **Esposito.**
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #139—by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #54—Special Spider-Man issue.
THE AVENGERS #283—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #11—by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Tanghal.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #335—by **David** and **Ridgeway.**
JUSTICE #11—by **Conway, Giffen,** and **Colletta**
MARVEL TALES #203—by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Hunt.**
THE NAM #10—by **Murray** and **Golden**
SILVER SURFER #3—by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
X-MEN #221—by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #198—by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
G.I. JOE #63—by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Mushynsky.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #22—by **Sanderson.**
MUPPET BABIES #15—by **Hitchcock** and **Severin.**
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #20—by **Englehart.**
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21—by **Michelinie, S. Buscema,** and **Colletta.**
MARVEL FANFARE #34
THE NAM (Trade Paperback)—by **Murray, Golden,** and **Gil.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #306—by **Englehart, J. Buscema,** and **S. Buscema.**
IRON MAN #222—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #130—by **David** and **Kupperberg.**
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #12—by **Kaminsky** and **Saltares.**
STAR BRAND #9
THOR #383—by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #20—by **L.** and **W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CARE BEARS #12—by **Gallagher, Post,** and **Edelman.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #13—by **Claremont, Cockrum,** and **Grainger.**
ELFQUEST #26—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
THE INHUMANOIDS #5—by **Sallcrup, Delbo,** and **Thibert.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #32—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE #5
CONAN SAGA #2—by **Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #3—compiled by **Olshevsky.**
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE (Trade Paperback) #5—by **Sanderson.**
THE PUNISHER Graphic Novel



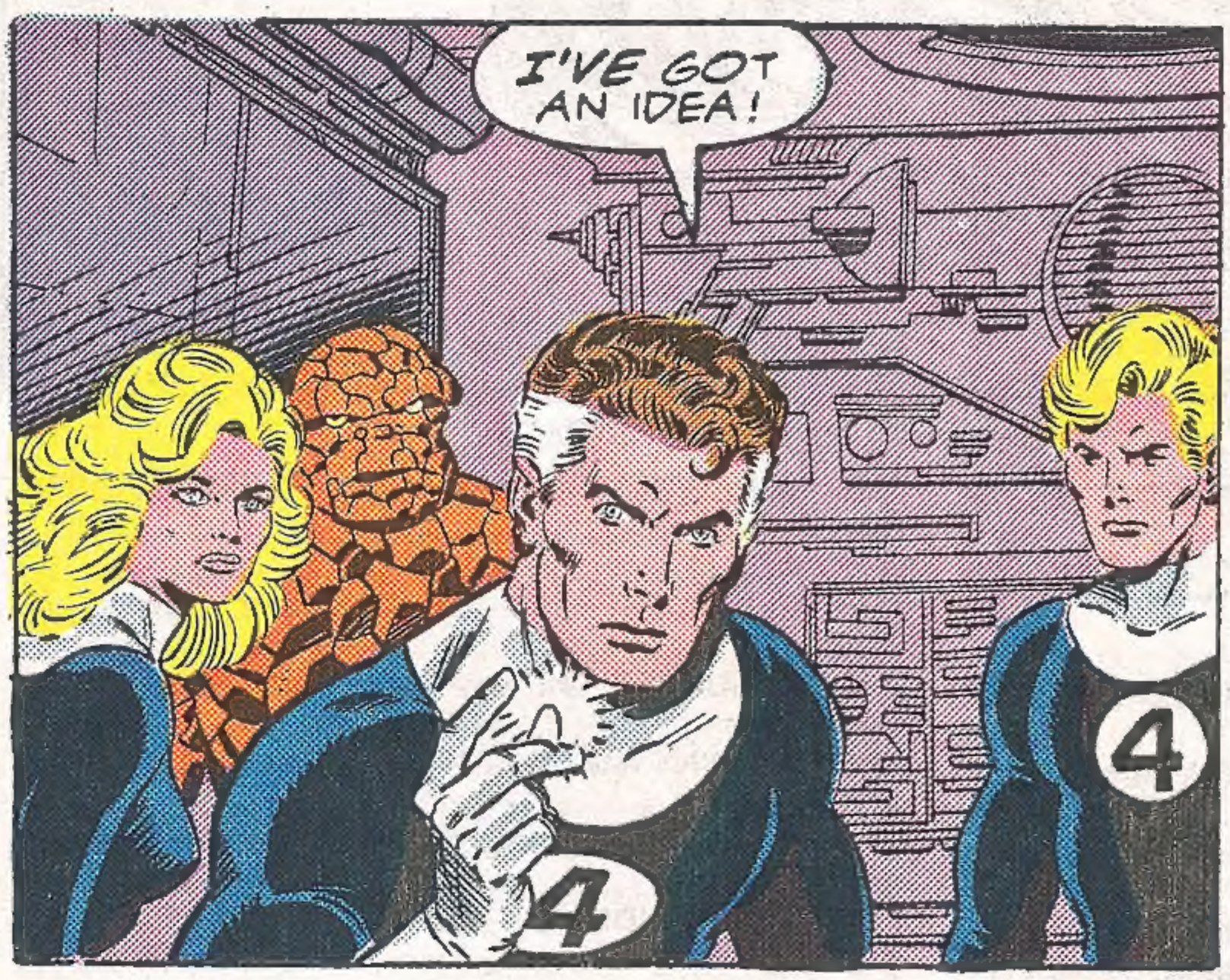
The She-Hulk takes on the Olympian gods in THE AVENGERS.

Titles Shipping June

MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #3
DAREDEVIL #247—by **Nocenti, Williams,** and **DeZuniga.**
STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #11—by **Gillis, Anderson,** and **Williamson.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #56—by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Williamson.**
NIGHTMASK #12—by **Thomas, Bagley,** and **DeZuniga.**
PSI FORCE #12—by **Fingeroth** and **Saltares.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #31
WEST COAST AVENGERS #25—by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Sinnott.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #7—by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
HUGGA BUNCH #7—by **Franco, Costanza,** and **Roettcher.**
THUNDERCATS #16
THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #16
POWERLINE #1
PREDATOR
ALPHA FLIGHT #51—by **Mantlo, Shoemaker,** and **Portacio.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #334—by **Gruenwald** and **Morgan.**
FALLEN ANGELS #7—by **Duffy, Staton,** and **Palmer.**
KICKERS, INC. #12—by **Kavanagh, Whigham,** and **DeZuniga.**
THE MERC #12—by **Murray** and **Morrow.**
THE PUNISHER #3—by **Baron** and **Janson.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293—by **Michelinie** and **Romita Jr.**
STRANGE TALES #7—by **Gillis, Warner, Emberlin, Mantlo,** and **Blevins.**
GROO THE WANDERER #32—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #18—by **Gallagher, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
POWER PACK #32—by **L. Simonson, Bogdanove,** and **Barta.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3
X-FACTOR ANNUAL #2
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE #6
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #140—by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #55
THE AVENGERS #284—by **Stern, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
D.P. 7 #12—by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Tanghal.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #336—by **David** and **McFarlane.**
JUSTICE #12
MARVEL TALES #204—by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Hunt.**
SILVER SURFER #4—by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
THE UNCANNY X-MEN #222—by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #199—by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
FLINTSTONE KIDS #2—by **Gallagher, Colon,** and **Milgrom.**
FOOFUR #2—by **Gallagher, Brown,** and **D'Agostino.**
G.I. JOE #64—by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Mushynsky.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #23—by **Sanderson.**
SILVERHAWKS #2—by **Perry, Witherby,** and **Sanders.**
THE NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3—by **Claremont, Davis,** and **Neary.**
STAR BRAND ANNUAL #1—by **Chase, Leonardi,** and **Williamson.**
ST. GEORGE #1
THE DEATH OF GROO Graphic Novel—by **Aragones** and **Evanier.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #307—by **Englehart**
IRON MAN #223—by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
THE 'NAM #11—by **Murray** and **Golden.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #131
CODENAME: SPITFIRE #13
THOR #384—by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
X-FACTOR #21—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #14—by **Claremont, Cockrum, Bolton,** and **Grainger.**
ELFQUEST #27—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
MADBALLS #6—by **Gallagher, Post,** and **Edelman.**
POPPLES #6—by **Franco, Costanza,** and **Roettcher.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #33—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin,** and **Garvey.**
PSI-FORCE ANNUAL #1—by **Fingeroth** and **Texeira.**
G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #6
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #18—by **Sanderson.**
ALIEN LEGION #21—by **Zelenetz, Stromas,** and **Emberlin.**
CONAN SAGA #3—by **Thomas** and **Windsor-Smith.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #3—compiled by **Olshevsky.**
BLOOD #1—by **DeMattels** and **Williams.**

NEWSWATCH

Fantastic Four shake-up!
Poster-sized pin-ups!
John Severin and Conan team-up!
A reminder to brush up!
And some Marvel staffers step up!



ITEM: We've been hearing some pretty exciting things about the FANTASTIC FOUR ever since **Steve Englehart** became the series's scripter—things that include a change in the team's line-up! When we asked new FANTASTIC FOUR editor **Ralph Macchio**, he smiled and confirmed that, yes, some members of **the Fantastic Four** will be leaving, but that he wouldn't tell us who will be signing on as new members! What he could tell us, though, is that the big news becomes public in FANTASTIC FOUR #305!

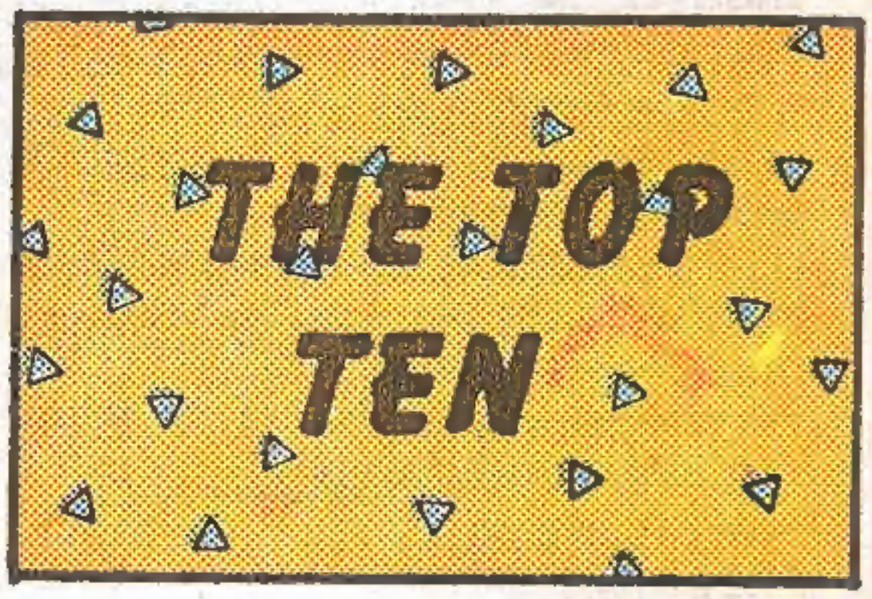
ITEM: And speaking of big news, wait'll you see the new batch of four Marvel Press posters! Talk about adding pin-up pizzaz to a wall these knock-out illustrations of CAPTAIN AMERICA by **Mike Zeck** and **Phil Zimelman,** THE SCARLET WITCH by **P. Craig Russell,** MAGIK by **Michael William Kaluta,** and ELEKTRA by **Bill Sienkiewicz** are just what the doctor ordered! And they're only $4.95 each! Look for them in your favorite comics specialty shop—they should be there right now!

ITEM: You've been telling us for years that our tales were works of art, and now First Team Press has proven it! They're right now in the midst of producing a stunning series of high-quality Limited Edition signed and numbered lithographs of such Marvel super heroes as **Wolverine, Doctor Strange, the Hulk, Captain America,** and **Dazzler** by artists **Gary Morrow, Tom Palmer, Graham Knowlan, Sandy Pluckett,** and more! The illustrations will be sold in fine art galleries and comics specialty shops all over the United States and Canada. The first poster should be out any day now, and if you want to find out more, drop 'em a line! Their address is: First Team Press, Gormley, Ontario, CANADA L0H 1G0. Tell 'em MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE sent you!

ITEM: Fans of SAVAGE TALES and KING KULL hailed **John Severin**'s illustrations for their gritty realism. Well, John's back with the barbarians—this time with the greatest one of all in the CONAN THE REAVER Graphic Novel! It's an action-filled saga written by CONAN THE KING scripter **Don Kraar,** and colored by John's equally famous artist sister, **Marie**! It's a real barbarian tour de force—with accent on the force!

ITEM: Hey, we just wanted to take this moment and say that if any of you hopeful pencilers and inkers plan to be at this summer's Atlanta Fantasy Fair, they'll be featuring the MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE Art Contest again! Just like last time, the winners in the penciling and inking division will get their entries published here in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. Good luck!

ITEM: We wanted to say welcome aboard to new **Spider-Man** assistant editor **Glenn Herdling,** congratulations to new MARVEL SAGA editor **Adam Blaustein,** and hasta bananna (or something like that) to new production assistant **Hector Collazo,** but we had so much information this time around that we've run out of room! But there's still enough space left to say—"Great going, guys!"



Howdy! It's time again to take a peek at Marvel's top ten direct sales titles! This month's list has the best-selling comics for December, 1986. And each and every month, just like clockwork, it's compiled by our sprightly Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish.**

1—**X-MEN #216**
2—**AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN #1**
3—**X-FACTOR #15**
4—**FANTASTIC FOUR VS. THE X-MEN #3**
5—**G.I. JOE #58**
6—**FALLEN ANGELS #1**
7—**MEPHISTO VS. THE FANTASTIC FOUR #1**
8—**G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #4**
9—**CLASSIC X-MEN #8**
10—**G.I. JOE VS. THE TRANSFORMERS #4**

Wow! The "VS." titles sure made a showing! And the mutant titles and G.I. JOE are still going strong!

THE HISTORY OF THE SILVER SURFER®

Galactus. The Watcher. The Fantastic Four. Who better than these giants of the Marvel Universe to be on hand for the birth of a character that took comicdom to new heights of storytelling magic. The year is 1966. The creators are **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby.** The tale is the immortal "Galactus Trilogy." And the character is none other than the sky-riding **Silver Surfer.**

From these not-so-humble beginnings to the new **Steve Englehart** and **Marshall Rogers** series, the Silver Surfer is a character of destiny. Come with us on a trip through Marvel's yesterdays to explore the person, the power, and the purity that is the Silver Surfer!

With his very first appearance in THE FANTASTIC FOUR, the Silver Surfer displayed an awesome, unique power—the power cosmic, the very stuff of life itself. The Surfer possesses the ability to channel this cosmic energy into his own body at will and release it as a deadly weapon or as a life-giving force. He can restructure molecules to his own design or level whole cities with little effort. The sky-rider can increase his already-formidable physical strength by absorbing vast amounts of the power cosmic. He has battled **the Thing, Thor,** and **the Incredible Hulk** in this fashion, more than adequately holding his own. His silvery skin makes him invulnerable to most forms of physical harm. He has even been known to heal the wounded and those near death with his amazing abilities.

The Surfer neither needs to eat nor breathe, but instead absorbs life-sustaining cosmic energy directly into his system. He controls a cosmically powered board made of the same substance as his skin. He uses the board as a means of transportation, as a weapon, and for defense.

RISE, PUNY CREATURE! RISE, AND FACE THE MONUMENTAL MAJESTY OF... GALACTUS!

I SEEK NO WEALTH ..NO PERSONAL GAIN --NO PETTY, PALTRY TREASURE WHICH ZENN-LA MAY POSSESS..!

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SPEAK! IT WILL SERVE NO PURPOSE, SINCE I KNOW WHY YOU HAVE COME!

INSTEAD I CRAVE THE TOTAL ENERGY OF YOUR HAPLESS WORLD... ENERGY ...WITHOUT WHICH GALACTUS CANNOT SURVIVE!

BUT, YOUR QUEST IS IN VAIN! YOU CANNOT SAVE YOUR WORLD FROM BEING RAVISHED BY GALACTUS!

GALACTUS! HE WHOSE NAME IS LEGEND THRU-OUT A THOUSAND STAR CLUSTERS!

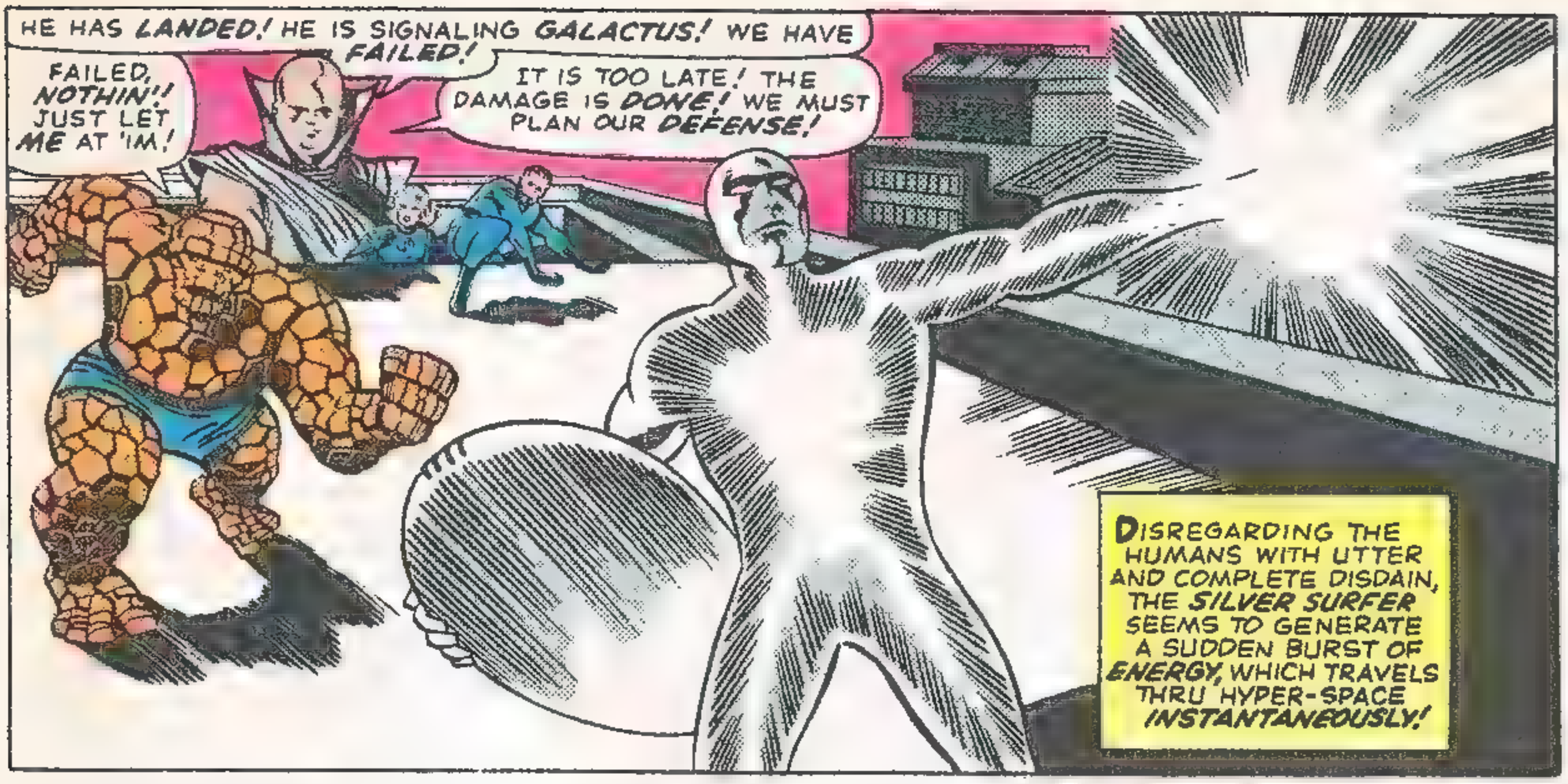
NO! IF YOU DRAIN OUR ENERGY ...YOU DRAIN OUR LIVES!

GALACTUS! HE WHOSE RACE WAS OLD BEYOND TIME... BEFORE OUR GALAXY EXISTED!

YOU DARE NOT SLAY AN ENTIRE RACE!

GALACTUS!.. THE MERCILESS PLANET DESTROYER!!

RATHER A HUNDRED INVADING ARMADAS... THAN THE MENACE OF... GALACTUS!


HE HAS LANDED! HE IS SIGNALING GALACTUS! WE HAVE FAILED!
FAILED, NOTHIN'! JUST LET ME AT 'IM!
IT IS TOO LATE! THE DAMAGE IS DONE! WE MUST PLAN OUR DEFENSE!
DISREGARDING THE HUMANS WITH UTTER AND COMPLETE DISDAIN, THE SILVER SURFER SEEMS TO GENERATE A SUDDEN BURST OF ENERGY, WHICH TRAVELS THRU HYPER-SPACE INSTANTANEOUSLY!

Those are the particulars, but where did this mysterious being come from?

It was 1966 and the fabulous Fantastic Four had already battled the likes of **the Mole Man, Dr. Doom,** and **the Sub-Mariner.** What could they possibly encounter that would be different, fresh, and exciting? Stan Lee and Jack Kirby needed to come up with a new menace to threaten the world, a super-powerful foe that only the Fantastic Four could deal with. So the master storytellers created a seemingly omnipotent being whose powers could destroy planets at will. In fact, this alien needed the energy of living worlds the way we need the four basic food groups. They called him Galactus and he made his first appearance in FANTASTIC FOUR #48. Thus began the "Galactus Trilogy" and the story of the Silver Surfer.

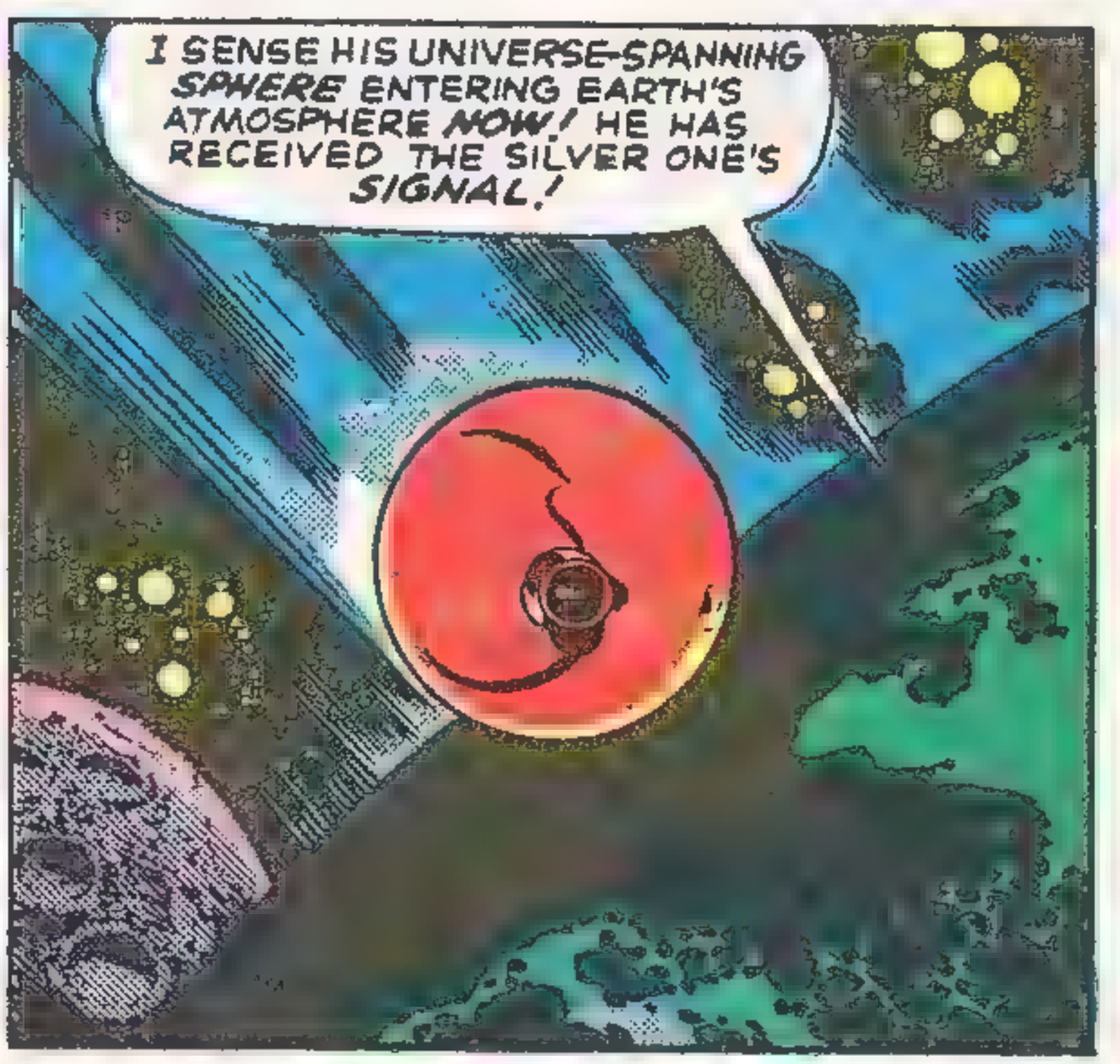
It was an ordinary day in the life of **Reed Richards** and company when the mysterious **Watcher** appeared. Now it has long been established that the Watcher operated under a non-interference policy, allowing cosmic affairs to take their own course. But something of the utmost consequence forced him to break that oath to save the planet he had grown to care about. "The Silver Surfer is on the way!" he warned. That could only mean that the world-consumer was close behind.

Acting as advance scout and herald for Galactus, the star-spanning Surfer arrived on top of the Baxter Building—the FF's headquarters—and signaled his master that he had found a world ripe to be drained. The first episode ended, and readers everywhere waited on the edge of their seats for the story to continue.

The second part of the trilogy opened with Galactus and the Watcher arguing over the fate of the Earth. The FF were powerless before Galactus and his elemental converter, a massive device that would turn everything into pure energy for the world-eater to consume. But all was not lost. Fate was about to lend a hand in the form of the Silver Surfer!

Jack Kirby came up with the original idea for the Surfer when he was penciling Stan's plot for the "Galactus Trilogy." Seeing Galactus as an almost Biblical figure, Jack decided to give him "a herald, a cosmic being whose awesome powers would be dwarfed by the great Galactus...a kind of fallen angel I called the Silver Surfer." It was **Alicia Masters,** then lady love of the Thing, who re-awakened the humanity and conscience of this fallen angel. While the Human Torch was off across the galaxy at the Watcher's request to find the Ultimate Nullifier, the one weapon that could defeat Galactus, the Surfer was busy encasing his master in a cocoon of pure energy.

YOU MUST FORGET ABOUT HIM WHO RIDES THE SKYWAYS! THE DANGER IS GALACTUS! FOR HE IS THE ULTIMATE DANGER--PERHAPS THE FINAL DANGER!



What followed is perhaps the most spectacular display of cosmic power ever recorded in the comic medium as the master and the herald battled over a seemingly insignificant blue planet in he farthest reaches of space.

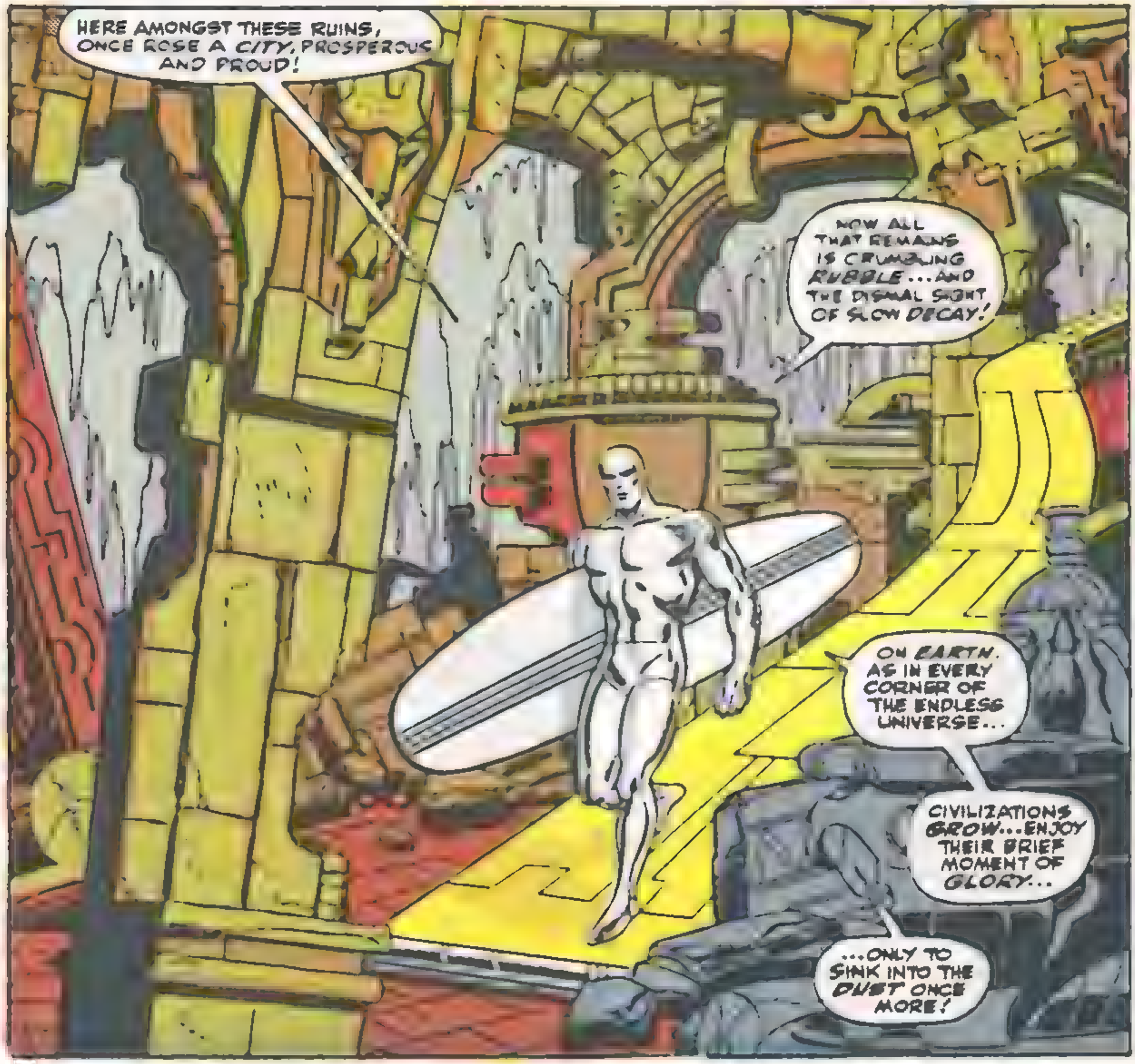
As the battle progressed, the **Human Torch** returned with a weapon that could destroy the entire universe—the Ultimate Nullifier. Not even Galactus wanted to see the universe destroyed for then he might perish as well. In the end Reed turned the weapon over to Galactus in return for .he planet destroyer's word that he would leave Earth in peace. Being beyond the scope of good or evil as we know it, Galactus stayed true to his word and departed, but not before emoving from the Surfer that which allowed him to soar freely through space and placing an impassable barrier around Earth. The defiant herald would remain upon the world he fought to save, as much a prisoner as a hero. Thus began the legend of the Silver Surfer.

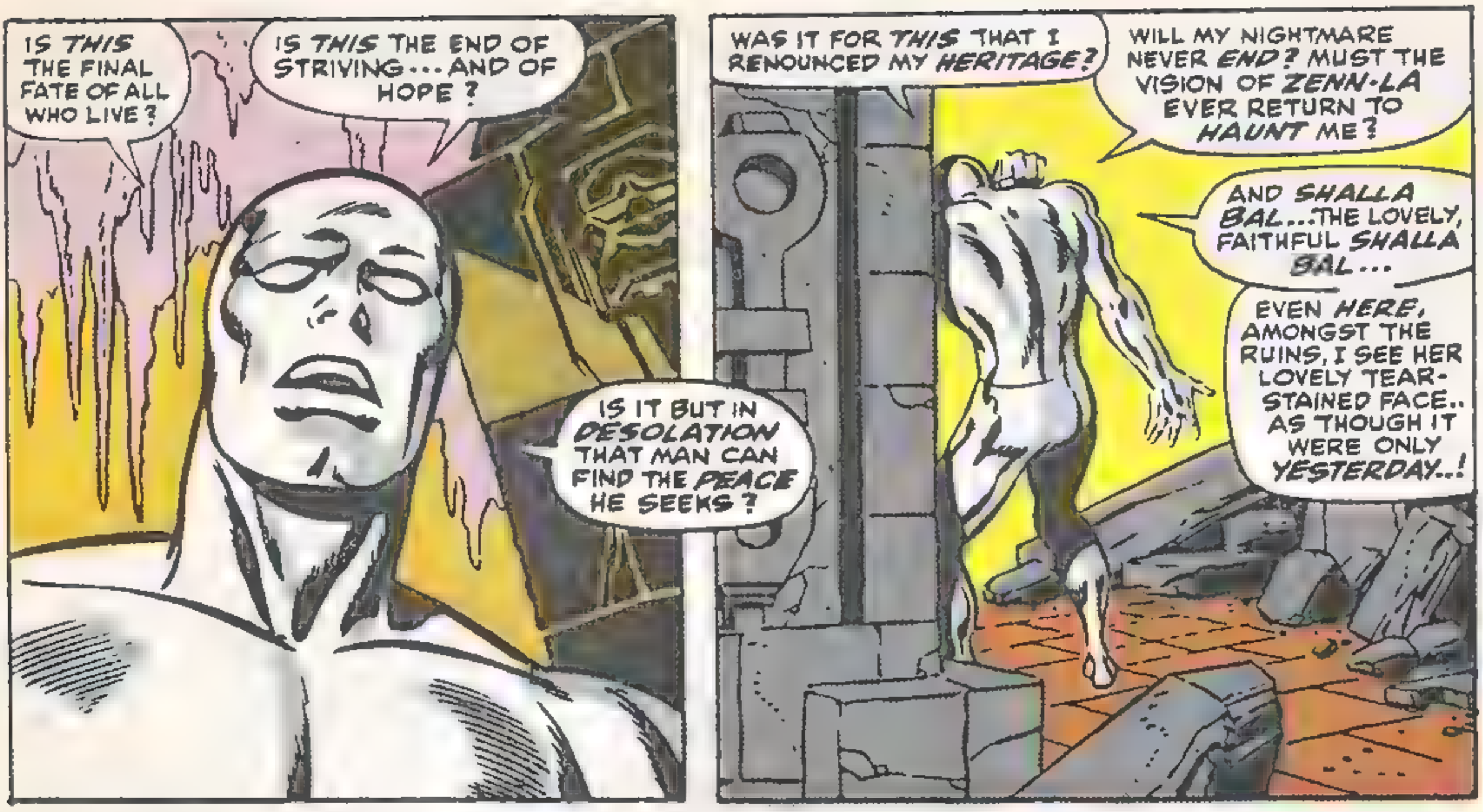
The next major phase in the tale of the Silver Surfer took place in the year 1968. This year saw the debut of THE SILVER SURFER. Yes, the sky-rider of the spaceways got his own book after two years of guest appearances. It kicked off with a double-sized origin issue written by Stan Lee, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Joe Sinnott** who also inked the "Galactus Trilogy." Here we were introduced to the events that transpired before the "Galactus Trilogy," meeting the man **Norrin Radd** before he was transformed into the silver herald.

It was upon the peaceful idyllic planet of Zenn-La that Norrin Radd questioned the meaning of his existence and yearned for the days of his world's youth. He said of Zenn-La, "We had gone too far, seen too much! And then...we no longer cared. We of Zenn-La, who had scattered our seed to the most distant stars, returned to our mother world...never to venture forth again." Even his beloved, the dark-haired **Shalla Bal**, could sense his discontent. He longed to soar among the stars like his ancestors, to live instead of just exist. Norrin Radd wanted more out of life than to inhabit a paradise unearned.

Then the gigantic spaceship of Galactus arrived. Zenn-La, a world that had forgotten how to defend itself, had forgotten how to wage war, was ready to admit defeat and give up in despair to the invader. But not Norrin Radd. He wasn't ready to lie down, to accept so simple a defeat. He was the only one on Zenn-La who would rather try, and risk failure, than not try at all. So he approached the awesome alien craft and met...Galactus, the merciless planet destroyer!

Offering himself to the Eater of Worlds, Norrin Radd pledged to become Galactus's herald, if he would but spare Zenn-La. Norrin Radd would probe the heavens for Galactus for eternity. Galactus agreed. The deal


HERE AMONGST THESE RUINS, ONCE ROSE A CITY, PROSPEROUS AND PROUD!
NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS CRUMBLING RUBBLE...AND THE DISMAL SIGHT OF SLOW DECAY!
ON EARTH, AS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE ENDLESS UNIVERSE...
CIVILIZATIONS GROW...ENJOY THEIR BRIEF MOMENT OF GLORY...
...ONLY TO SINK INTO THE DUST ONCE MORE!


IS THIS THE FINAL FATE OF ALL WHO LIVE?
IS THIS THE END OF STRIVING... AND OF HOPE?
IS IT BUT IN DESOLATION THAT MAN CAN FIND THE PEACE HE SEEKS?
WAS IT FOR THIS THAT I RENOUNCED MY HERITAGE?
WILL MY NIGHTMARE NEVER END? MUST THE VISION OF ZENN-LA EVER RETURN TO HAUNT ME?
AND SHALLA BAL...THE LOVELY, FAITHFUL SHALLA BAL...
EVEN HERE, AMONGST THE RUINS, I SEE HER LOVELY TEAR-STAINED FACE.. AS THOUGH IT WERE ONLY YESTERDAY..!

was struck, and Norrin Radd was reborn as...The Silver Surfer. Encased in silvery flesh and endowed with a portion of Galactus's own cosmic power, the Surfer left his world and his love behind to follow his master. For time seemingly without end he searched for planets to sustain Galactus until that fateful day when he called Galactus to Earth.

THE SILVER SURFER lasted eighteen issues and produced stories that were truly ahead of their time. In issue #3 fans were introduced to the ultimate evil, a villain who was the antithesis of the Surfer, **Mephisto**, Lord of the Underworld. Mephisto tormented the Surfer endlessly, seeking to find that flaw which would allow him to claim the sky-rider's perfect soul. "The Silver Surfer is an allegorical representation of all that is good, all that is pure and unsullied in the human condition," explained Stan Lee. "To me, he represents humanity, not as it is but as it might be, as it should be, as it one day must be." Mephisto was the opposite of all that. Despite all the tortures, temptations, and trials that Mephisto placed before the Silver Surfer, including that of his love, Shalla Bal, the Surfer won, time and time again.

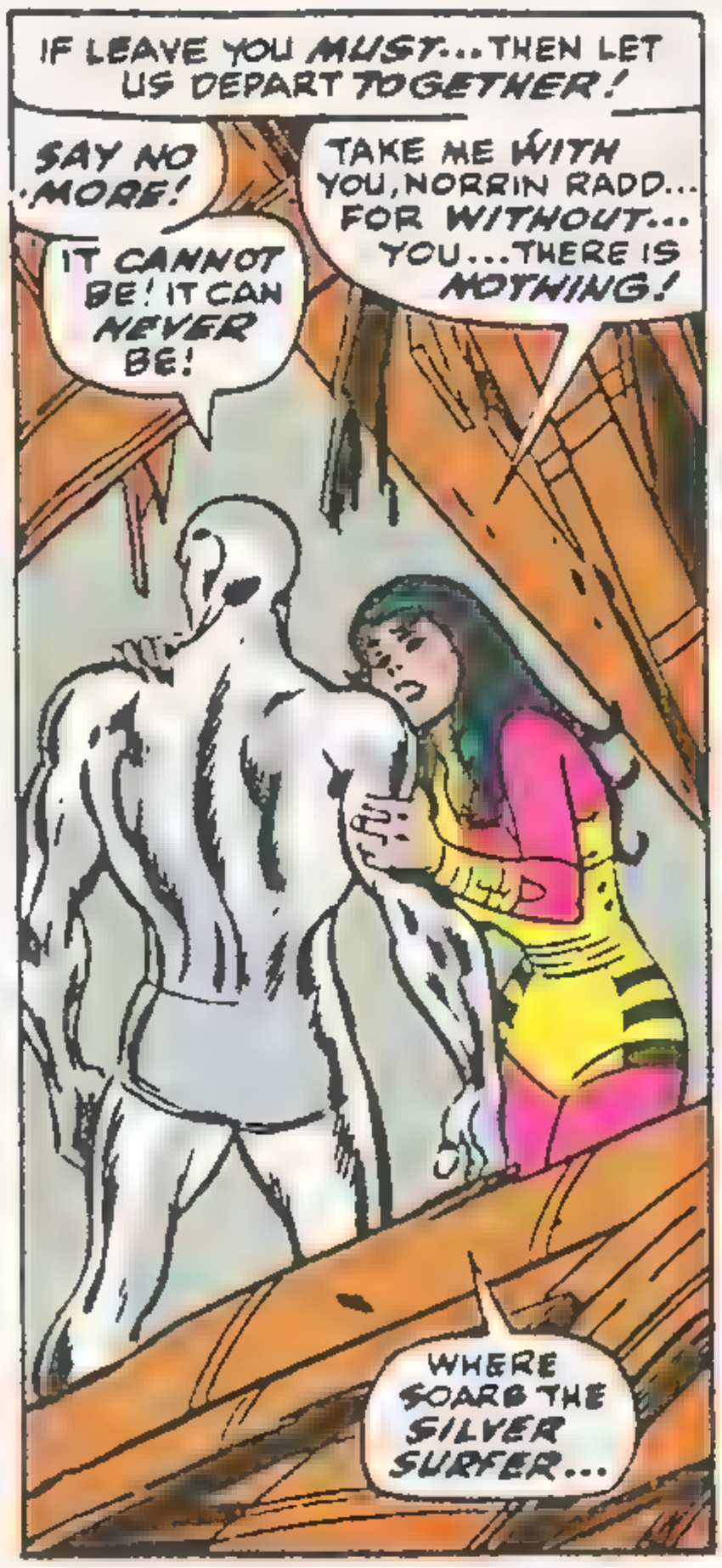
As the series wound to an end in 1970, the Surfer confronted the **Abomination** and **Spider-Man**, battled the Human Torch, tried to destroy **SHIELD** and encountered **the Inhumans**.

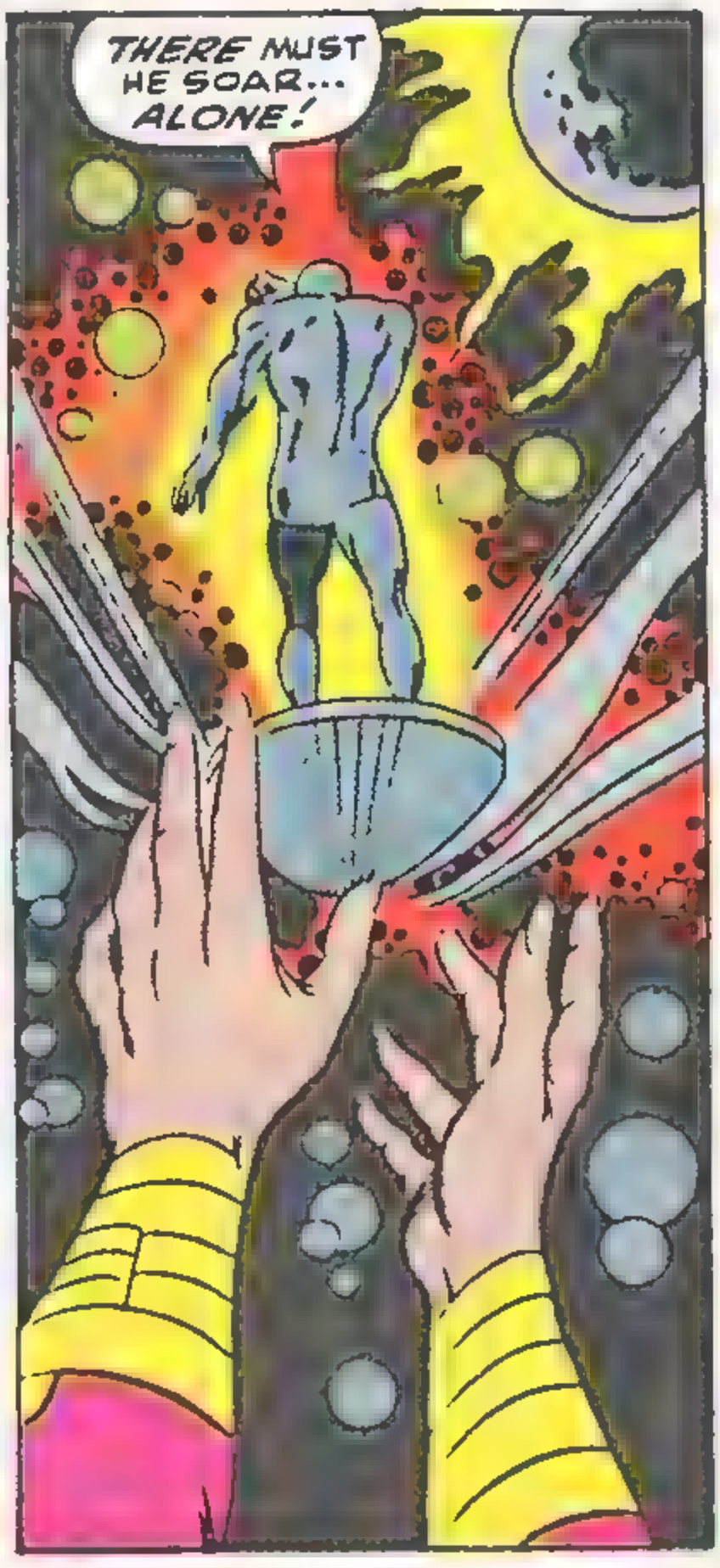
In 1972 the Surfer joined **Dr. Strange**, the Sub-Mariner, and **the Hulk** in THE DEFENDERS. Writer Steve Englehart and artist **Sal Buscema** chronicled such epic tales as the battle against the mystic menace of **the Nameless One**, the coming of **the Valkyrie**, and the **Avengers**/**Defenders** war!

Trapped on Earth, the Surfer has fought beside and against such strange and powerful beings as Thor, the Hulk, Spider-Man, **Dracula**, and Dr. Doom. Yet he has never ceased trying to find a way to breach the energy barrier that Galactus erected. The Surfer even once broke free with the help of Reed Richards, only to return to his imprisonment in order to thwart the foul plans of Mephisto.

Now, in his new series, the Silver Surfer has been released from his confinement and is free to soar the spaceways once more.

—Bill Slavicsek

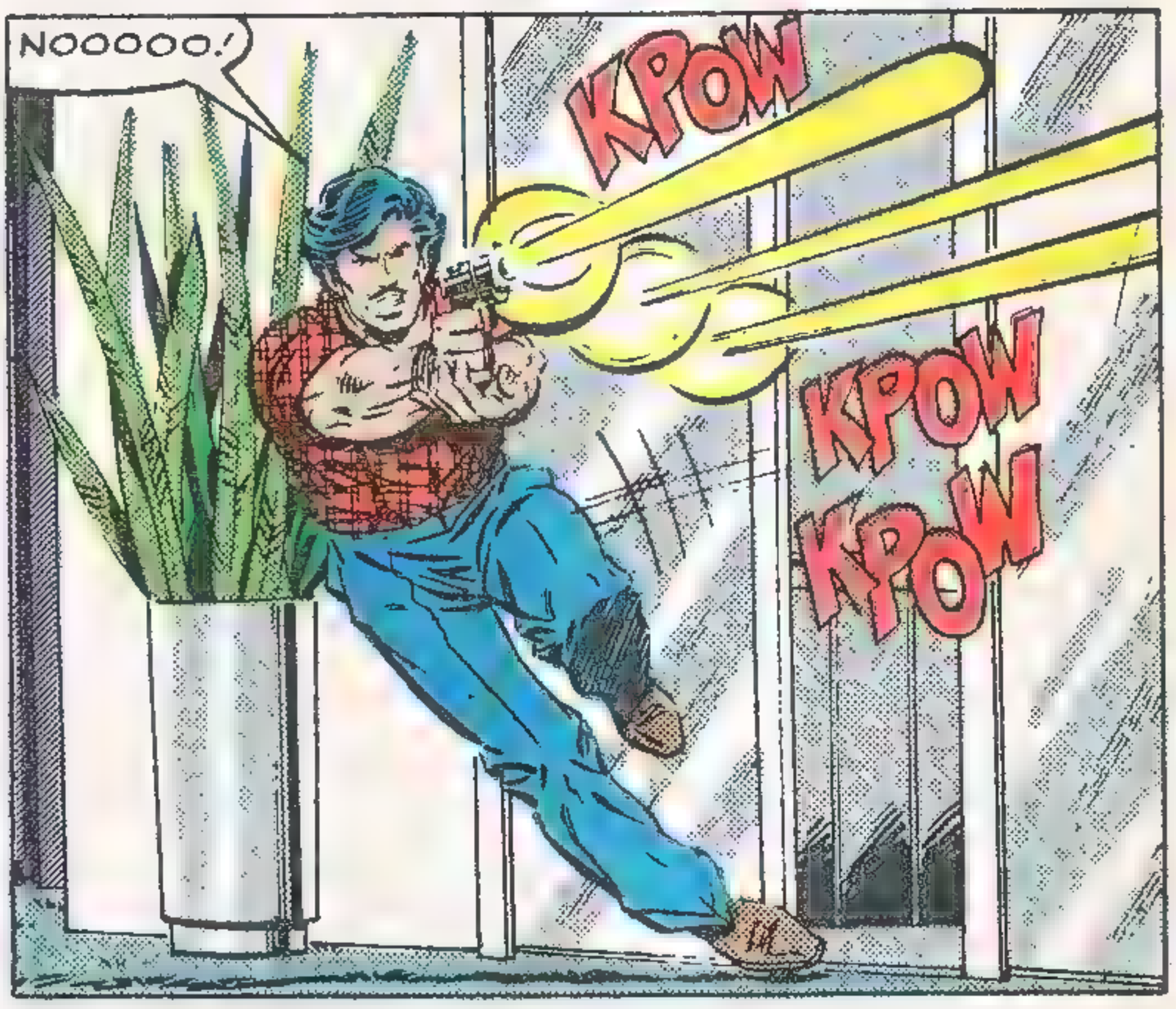

IF LEAVE YOU MUST...THEN LET US DEPART TOGETHER!
SAY NO MORE!
TAKE ME WITH YOU, NORRIN RADD... FOR WITHOUT... YOU...THERE IS NOTHING!
IT CANNOT BE! IT CAN NEVER BE!
WHERE SOARS THE SILVER SURFER...



MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

In spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of what his girlfriend's been thinking about all winter, or words to that effect. It may not yet be spring wherever you are (the Mighty Marvel Time Lapse is always hard to figure), but romance is often in the air this time of year, and so it seemed a good theme for this month's MIGHTY MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ. Yes, romance is alive and well among the super-heroic pantheon. The headliners in this area spring to mind easily: **Reed** and **Sue**, **Peter** and **Betty**, Peter and **Gwen**, Peter and **Mary Jane**, Peter and **Felicia**...but how many of the male/female mix-ups listed below can you recall? As always, questions range from recent to distant Marvel history, and the answers are given on page 32. And who knows, maybe doing this quiz with an attractive comics-reading friend will inspire you!

—Brian Nelson



1. What former flame of **Ka-Zar** is now married to another blond adventurer?

2. Who is the beloved of **Rocket Raccoon**?

3. What Marvel Comics heroine has a husband named **Philip** and four children, **Drusilla, Katrina, Andrew** and **Thomas**?

4. What silver-haired ex-astronaut flirted with **Killraven** in the latter's graphic novel?

5. Who does **Alex Power** consider "incredibly perfect"?

6. Who is **Marsha Rosenberg** and who is she in love with?

7. One of the current **Avengers** (consider both coasts, here) is a widow; can you name her and her deceased husband?

8. Widows, of couse, can marry again; what late fellow was **Shanna the She-Devil** wedded to, before his death and her subsequent marriage to **Kevin Plunder**?

9. What hero did **Colleen Wing** once offer her apartment key to, and who probably has a copy of it himself these days?

10. After finally getting over rejection from **Leiko Wu**, what other co-worker did British spy **Clive Reston** take up with?

11. What Kree scientist was determined to mate with **Mar-Vell** to further the biological destiny of their species?

12. Which of **Tony Stark's** many romantic interests urged him to get out of munitions and try more natural foods?

13. Everyone recalls **Michael**, perhaps the Avengers' greatest foe, but do you recall the name of his tragic lady love?

14. One of the first women to catch the eye of **Conan the Barbarian** was the title character of issue #5's "Zukala's Daughter." What was her name?

15. **Marrina** is not the first alien woman that **Namor** has shown an interest in; what red-skinned last survivor of her expedition was known to raise those arched Atlantean eyebrows?

16. Namor has been as much of a lady's man as Tony Stark; what surface woman did **Dorma** fear competition from in early issues of SUB-MARINER?

17. Who was the only woman **Jasper Sitwell** has ever been seen to love?

18. If Jasper had followed his boss's example, he'd have done all right; to choose just one example, what former HYDRA agent was **Nick Fury** known to dally with?

19. Nick, of course, is no stranger to ill-fated romance; what woman did he lose to the tragedy of World War II?

20. Two of **Johnny Storm's** former flames (sorry, couldn't resist) have married other men and had children; can you name them both?

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, **Kirby** and **Buscema**, pay attention! This one's about you!

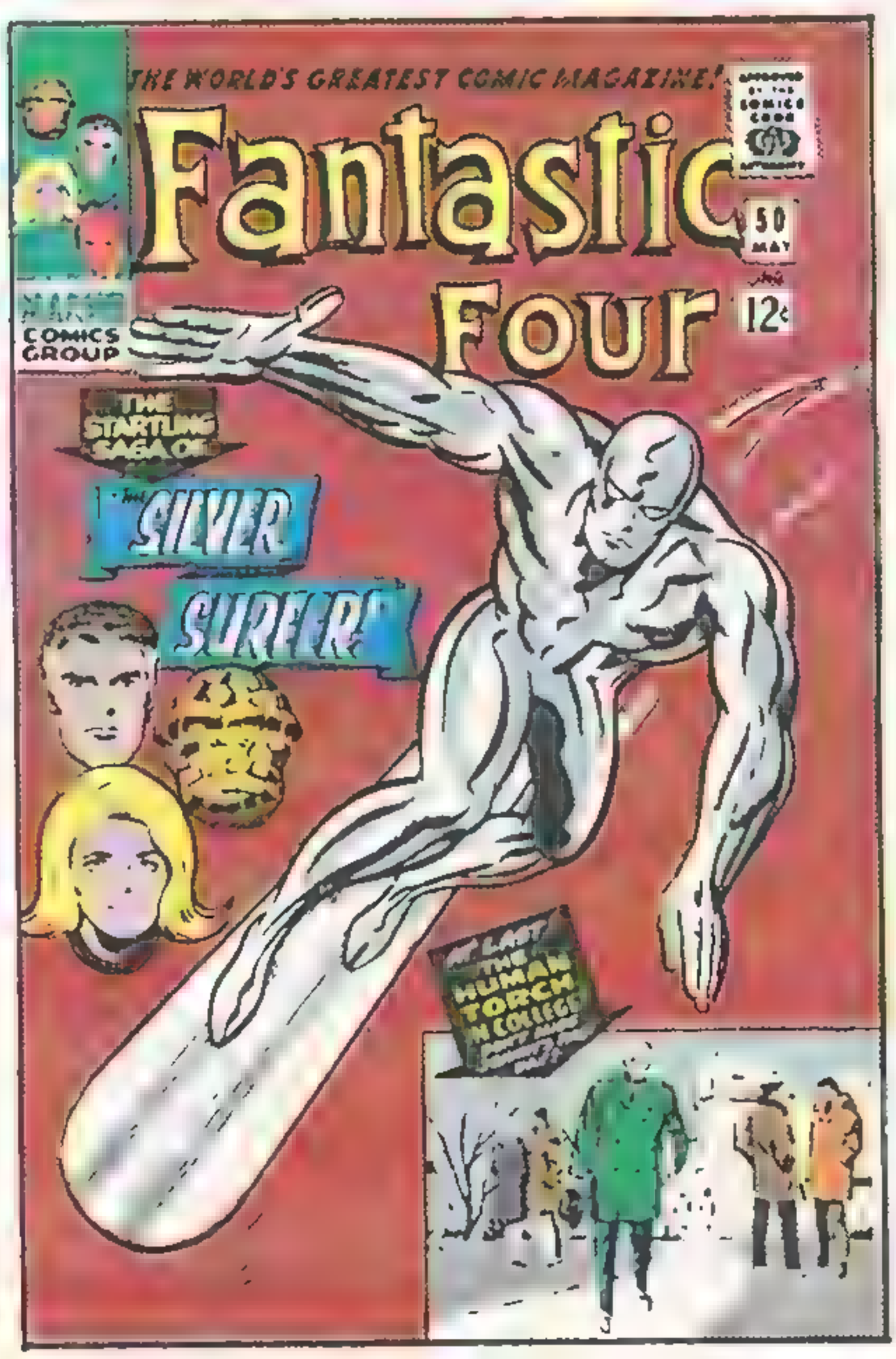
Well, it's really about **the Silver Surfer**. But how can I write a whole column about everyone's favorite flying filosopher (ouch!) without mentioning the two guys who helped make him one of the most recognizable and revered characters in all of comicdom?

It started with Jolly Jack Kirby. Way back in the sixties I decided to introduce a new villain, named **Galactus**, who would be a gigantic, seemingly all-powerful planet destroyer. Actually, he wasn't really a villain in the strictest sense of the word. Of course, he might not have been the kind'a guy you'd want to date your kid sister—and maybe he did annihilate an entire population every now and then—but he wasn't really mad at anyone; it's not as if he harbored any anti-social tendencies. You know what I mean. He was just your average merciless demi-god trying to get along.

Anyway, when Jack brought me the pages he had penciled, I saw that he had drawn some kind of naked character on a flying surfboard. Well, ain't no flies on ol' **Stan**! First thing I asked was, "Hey, Kirby, what's with this guy?" (As you can tell, we were master communicators in those days.). The Jolly One came up from behind his cigar long enough to inform me that he figured anyone as powerful as Galactus ought to have a herald to fly ahead and locate planets for him to victimize. Sounded cool to me, so he was promptly dubbed the Silver Surfer and another Bullpen legend was born!

But, because of the way Jack drew ol' Surfy I couldn't simply write him as if he was any old ordinary comic book-type freak from outer space. There was something about him that looked indescribably noble. You could almost say he had a sort of religious quality! So I decided to treat him like a latter day innocent, like the living personification of all that was good and pure in the human condition. If it sounds corny, so be it. I never promised you a rose garden. Anyway, it's all Kirby's fault for drawing him so blamed beautiful-looking!

Later, we decided to do an entire series featuring our soaring sky-rider. Jack didn't have time to handle it but the legendary Lee luck was still ridin' high! Big John Buscema offered to draw the sagas and the rest is history. We did about eighteen issues before the series ended and they were certainly some of the most beautifully illustrated comic book chronicles ever presented to an ecstatically enthusiastic and titantically thankful citizenry! If Johnny Buscema never drew another strip, though luckily for us he's never stopped, THE SILVER SURFER would still have staked his claim to comic book immortality!

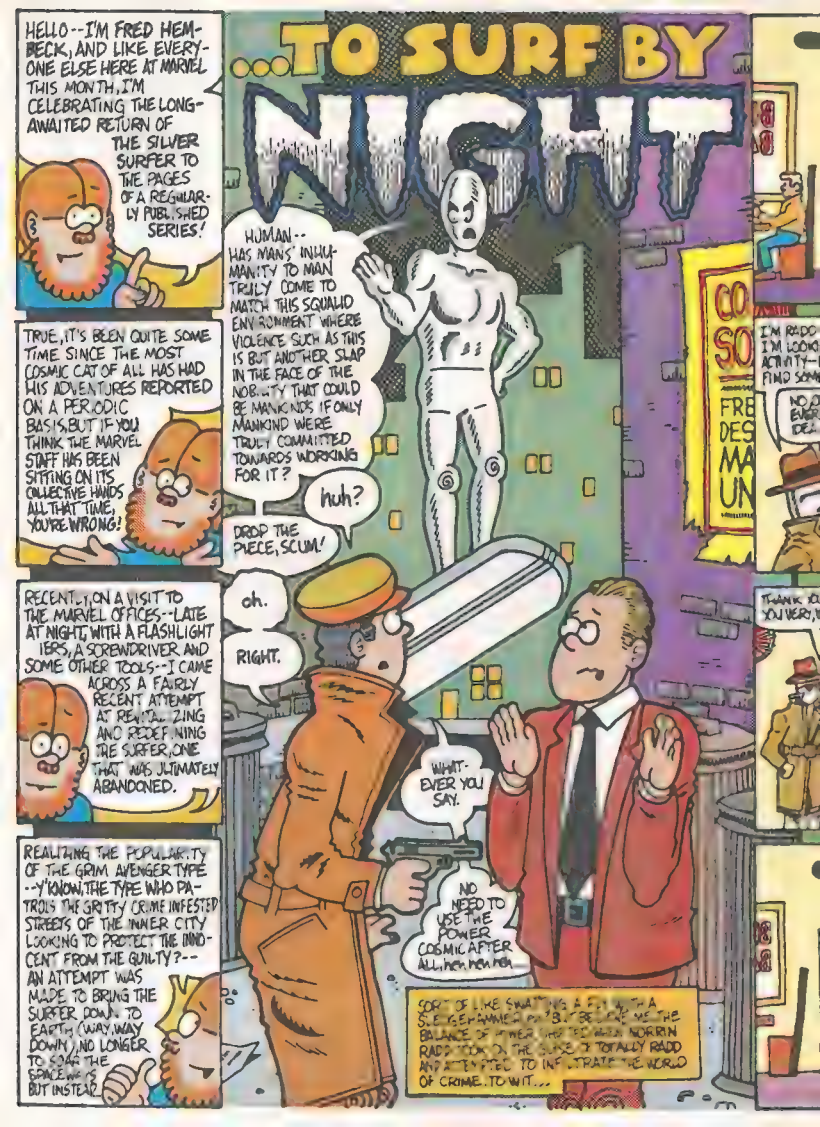


And now, the big news! The Surfer's coming back! None other than **Stalwart Steve Englehart** will be writing the scripts and **Meticulous Marshall Rogers** will be doing the illos! An announcement like this doesn't need any more hype from me. It's one of the big events of the year! Don't say I didn't warn ya!

Hey, before I leave you, I wanna put an end to an ugly rumor. There's absolutely not a shred of truth to the vicious report that **Wolverine** and **Aunt May** have been secretly meeting at the same manicurist!

EXCELSIOR!

Stan


...TO SURF BY NIGHT
HELLO--I'M FRED HEMBECK, AND LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE HERE AT MARVEL THIS MONTH, I'M CELEBRATING THE LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF THE SILVER SURFER TO THE PAGES OF A REGULAR-LY PUBLISHED SERIES!
TRUE, IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE THE MOST COSMIC CAT OF ALL HAS HAD HIS ADVENTURES REPORTED ON A PERIODIC BASIS, BUT IF YOU THINK THE MARVEL STAFF HAS BEEN SITTING ON ITS COLLECTIVE HANDS ALL THAT TIME, YOU'RE WRONG!
RECENTLY, ON A VISIT TO THE MARVEL OFFICES--LATE AT NIGHT, WITH A FLASHLIGHT IERS, A SCREWDRIVER AND SOME OTHER TOOLS--I CAME ACROSS A FAIRLY RECENT ATTEMPT AT REVITALIZING AND REDEFINING THE SURFER, ONE THAT WAS ULTIMATELY ABANDONED.
REALIZING THE POPULARITY OF THE GRIM AVENGER TYPE --Y'KNOW, THE TYPE WHO PATROLS THE GRITTY CRIME INFESTED STREETS OF THE INNER CITY LOOKING TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT FROM THE GUILTY?-- AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO BRING THE SURFER DOWN TO EARTH (WAY, WAY DOWN) NO LONGER TO SOAR THE SPACEWAYS BUT INSTEAD
HUMAN-- HAS MANS' INHUMANITY TO MAN TRULY COME TO MATCH THIS SQUALID ENVIRONMENT WHERE VIOLENCE SUCH AS THIS IS BUT ANOTHER SLAP IN THE FACE OF THE NOBILITY THAT COULD BE MANKINDS IF ONLY MANKIND WERE TRULY COMMITTED TOWARDS WORKING FOR IT?
huh?
DROP THE PIECE, SCUM!
oh.
RIGHT.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
NO NEED TO USE THE POWER COSMIC AFTER ALL, HEH HEH HEH...
SORT OF LIKE SWATTING A FLY WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER, BUT BELIEVE ME THE BALANCE OF POWER HAD TO BE RESTORED AFTER RADD TOOK THE SURFER TOTALLY RADD AND ACTIVATED TO INFILTRATE THE WORLD OF CRIME...TO WIT...

I'M LOOKING FOR LITTLE JOE McGURK.
I'M LITTLE JOE McGURK--WHADDAYA WANT?
CALL IT A ZUNCH.
A HUNCH?
CALL IT THAT TOO.
SAY, JOE--GOT A LIGHT?
'FRAID I HAVEN'T GOT A MATCH, PETE--SORRY.
ALLOW ME.
ohh!
'BYE!
WAIT--WHAT ABOUT CRIME?
...THIS JUST ISN'T WORKING OUT...
HEY!
WHO STOLE MY SURF BOARD?!
SO FOLKS, ENJOY THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURES OF THE SILVER SURFER AND BE GRATEFUL THAT WHAT MIGHT'VE BEEN--WASN'T!!

THE LAND I LOVED-- THE HOME I LONGED FOR - IS A SMOULDERING SEETHING *INFERNO*-- A BLAZING, LIFELESS *RUIN!*

ZENN-LA HAS BEEN DESTROYED!

SILVER SURFER®

NEW PROJECTS

In 1966 **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** introduced a character full of power and mystery, a character of such scope and grandeur that only the backdrop of space itself could do him justice. **The Silver Surfer,** the premiere herald of **Galactus,** wielder of the power cosmic, captivated readers from the moment he first soared across the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR #48.

Between the final issue of his first series, and the debut issue of his second, the rider of the skyways has shown up in such diverse titles as THOR, THE TOMB OF DRACULA and THE DEFENDERS. Top creative people have always been attracted to the Surfer and his story. And this attraction has extended even to the way the Silver Surfer stories appeared. As this article reveals, the Surfer's regular comic book series was only the beginning...

Lee, Kirby, Simon, and Schuster

In 1978 Simon and Schuster published a trade paperback titled THE SILVER SURFER. Written by Stan Lee and drawn by Jack Kirby and **Joe Sinnott,** this 100-page illustrated novel reunited the team that created the silvery-skinned alien. But the story, sort of a retelling of the Surfer's origin, wasn't tied into the regular stream of Marvel continuity. It tells of a Surfer still enslaved by Galactus, forced to search the cosmos for living planets to fill his master's insatiable hunger. This Surfer comes upon a tiny blue world that teems with energy, spirit, and vitality such as he has never encountered.

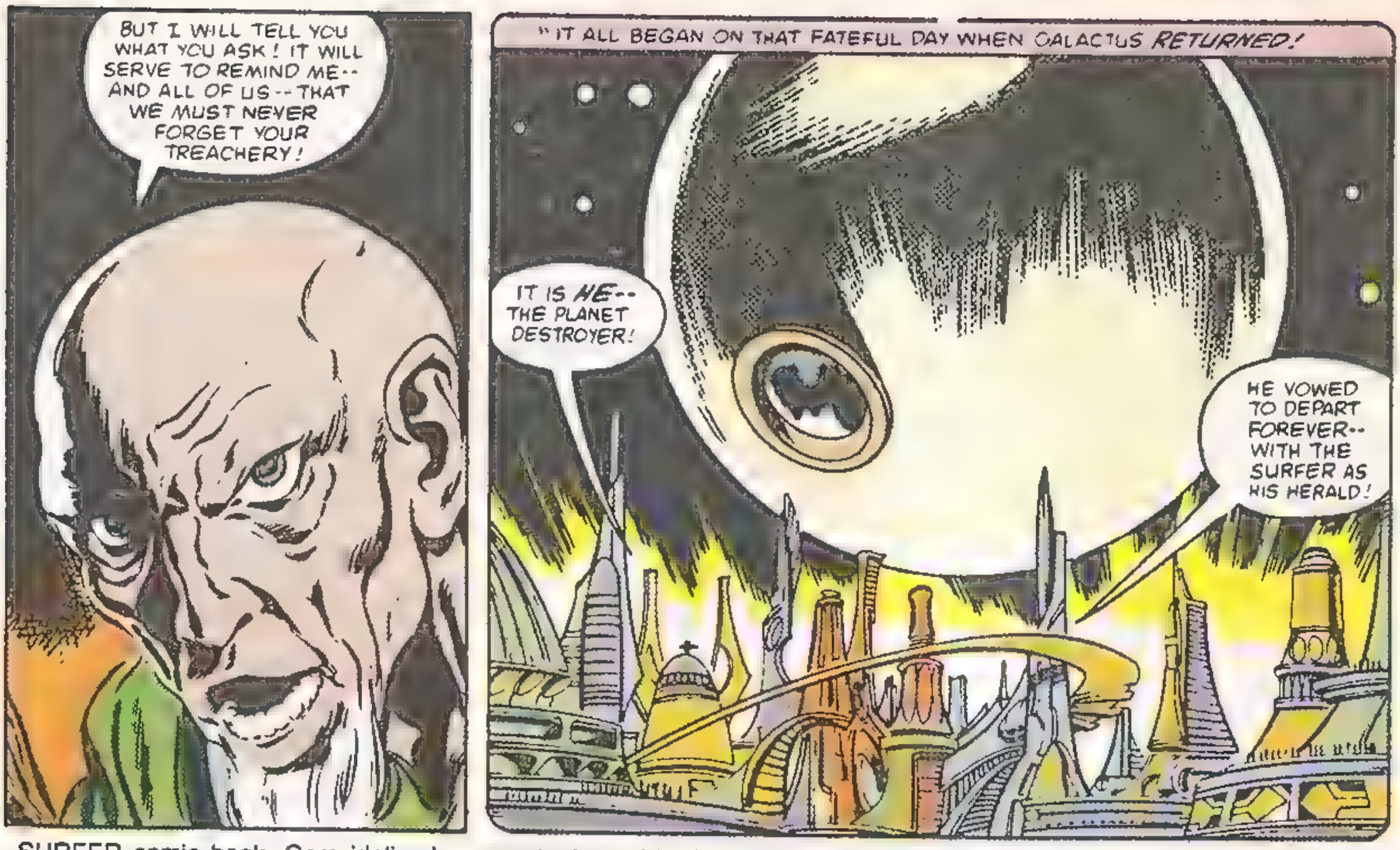
It is this planet—filled with sentient life—that brings the Surfer to a new understanding of himself. "I am his instrument, his herald, his presager of death," he realizes. But before he can leave to find an uninhabited planet, Galactus arrives! The Surfer defies his master and vows to defend Earth against the World-Eater. Galactus, angered at this uprising, removes his herald's ability to soar through space. The Silver Surfer is stranded on the world he tried to defend.

Wandering the streets of his new home in the guise of a human, the Surfer learns a little about the inhabitants of Earth. Meanwhile, even Galactus is forced to look at things in a new light. Never before has he been denied. He wants his herald back. To this end he attempts to trap the Surfer by turning his one weakness against him—the Surfer's heart. In the end the Surfer returns to his master, under the condition that the Earth be spared. Thus ends Lee and Kirby's unique retelling of the Surfer mythos.

The Silver Screen and the Silver Surfer

Even Hollywood has been captivated by the legend of the Silver Surfer. Interest was so intense that at one point a big-budget major motion picture was planned for the Surfer. The project was written about with great excitement in the trade magazines and the movie fanzines for months as it went through the many stages of pre-production. But then, all news stopped. And it doesn't look as though the Surfer will be soaring through movie theaters any time soon.

Although the Surfer's giant starring vehicle has been taken off the drawing board, he did actually make it to the silver screen. "Breathless," starring **Richard Gere,** featured the SILVER


BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT YOU ASK! IT WILL SERVE TO REMIND ME-- AND ALL OF US -- THAT WE MUST NEVER FORGET YOUR TREACHERY!
"IT ALL BEGAN ON THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN GALACTUS RETURNED!
IT IS HE-- THE PLANET DESTROYER!
HE VOWED TO DEPART FOREVER-- WITH THE SURFER AS HIS HERALD!

SURFER comic book. Gere idolized the Surfer and carried the comic with him all through the film. The Surfer was his hero. That was fitting.

Hollywood operates on a cycle. What's hot yesterday will be hot again tomorrow. Perhaps we'll still get to see the Silver Surfer in his own movie one day.

The Surfer and Marvel

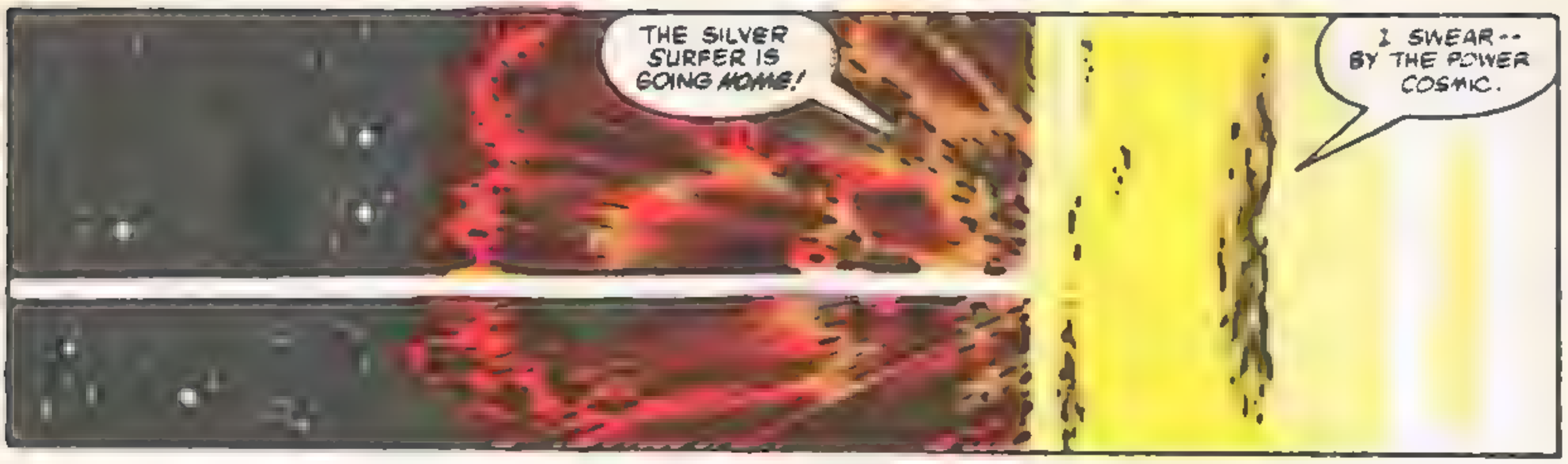
While all of this was going on, Marvel was hard at work on the Silver Surfer as well. Aside from his guest appearances in various titles, the Surfer was a regular for a short while in THE DEFENDERS. He didn't appear often, but when he did soar into a scene it was usually in regard to an important event that required his cosmic presence.

In 1982 a one-shot special issue titled SILVER SURFER hit the stands. Written by Stan Lee and drawn by **John Byrne** and **Tom Palmer** (from a plot by Byrne), "Escape to Terror" retold the Surfer's origin and explored his confinement on Earth. The story guest-starred the **Fantastic Four** and saw the Surfer's escape from the planet he saved. But **Reed Richards** explained that if he ever returned to Earth, the Surfer would once again be trapped. He raced through the endless void of space to his beloved home planet, Zenn-La, but his arrival was no joyous celebration—Zenn-La lay in ruins.

When the Surfer broke from Galactus, the world-eater returned to Zenn-La and canceled his agreement to spare that planet. He gave the people 24 hours to vacate before he destroyed the Surfer's original home. But the people returned to their devastated planet, and there they lived amid the barren wastes when the Surfer finally returned. The Silver Surfer learned all this. He learned as well that Shalla Bal, the woman he loves, was in the clutches of his most hated enemy, **Mephisto!**

The Surfer flew back to Earth in order to enter the Netherworld, the dark realm of Mephisto, to battle for his beloved's release. But before the Surfer can completely defeat the Prince of Evil, Mephisto sends Shalla Bal back to Zenn-La. The Silver Surfer

DOOM'S CASTLE! BUT SOMETHING IS AMISS! I FAIL TO SENSE HIS PRESENCE THERE!
YET, I MUST NOT FALTER! THE PRIZE I SEEK IS SURELY TRAPPED WITHIN!



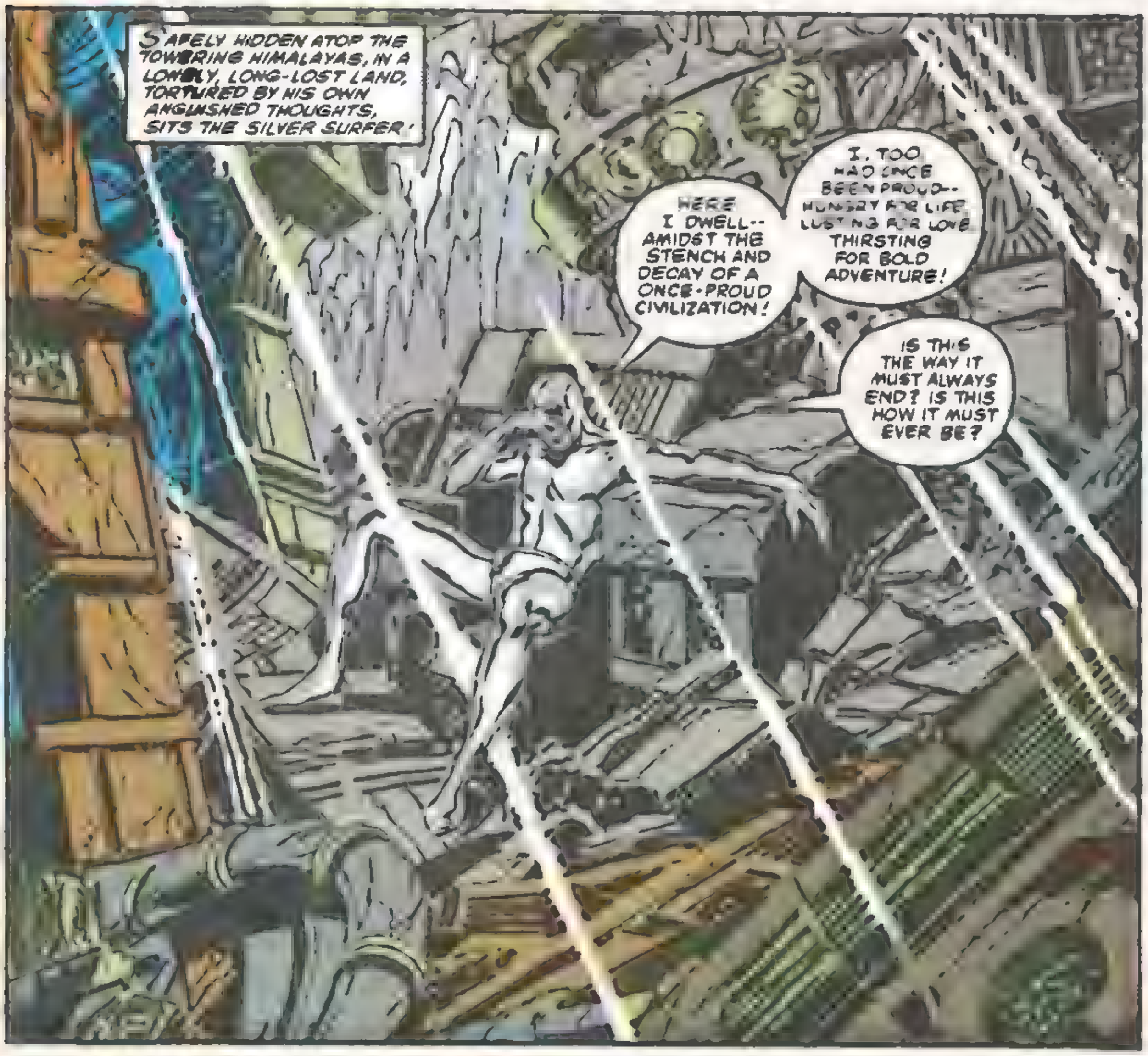
is again denied his love and his freedom as he is again trapped upon Earth. Though Mephisto laughs victoriously, the victory belongs to the Surfer. He has sent a bit of his life-giving cosmic power with Shalla Bal, and she in turn brings life to the desolate Zenn-La.

Since then, Marvel has been planning long and hard for the Surfer's return to the Marvel Universe. The first plan was a 12-issue Limited Series written by Steve Engelhart and drawn by **John Buscema.** After the first issue was completed, a change in the Surfer's direction canceled the project. This completed first issue will probably see publication in MARVEL FANFARE. It's a rather different Surfer story that features **Mantis** (the one-time **Avenger turned Celestial Madonna**), **the Kree, Mephisto, the Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, S.H.I.E.L.D., Thor's old enemy Mangog,** and Mantis's son!

There is also a SILVER SURFER Graphic Novel in the works, written by Stan Lee, illustrated by **Keith Pollard,** and edited by **Jim Shooter.** It's not currently on the schedule, but when it is you'll hear about it first in MARVEL AGE.

So there you have it, a brief look at the many plans and projects devoted to the Silver Surfer. As for what the future holds, all we can say is that beginning with the first issue of his new series, it's soaring!

—Bill Slavicsek


SAFELY HIDDEN ATOP THE TOWERING HIMALAYAS, IN A LONELY, LONG-LOST LAND, TORTURED BY HIS OWN ANGUISHED THOUGHTS, SITS THE SILVER SURFER!
HERE I DWELL-- AMIDST THE STENCH AND DECAY OF A ONCE-PROUD CIVILIZATION!
I, TOO HAD ONCE BEEN PROUD-- HUNGRY FOR LIFE, LUST ING FOR LOVE THIRSTING FOR BOLD ADVENTURE!
IS THIS THE WAY IT MUST ALWAYS END? IS THIS HOW IT MUST EVER BE?

THE NEW SILVER SURFER® SERIES

He is legend, a silvery figure that soars through space upon a silvery board. He is power, wielding the life-giving cosmic energy. He is pure, noble, good. He is **the Silver Surfer,** one-time herald of the world-eater **Galactus.** And after more than a decade, he is returning in a new series.

The critically acclaimed creative team of writer **Steve Englehart** and artist **Marshall Rogers** are the chroniclers of the newest episodes in the legend of the sky-rider of the spaceways. Joining them is inker **Josef Rubinstein** and editor **Michael Higgins.** "It's fun to work with such big names," said Michael, "Engelhart and Rogers are known for their unique collaboration on THE BATMAN some years back, and I'm glad we were able to reunite them for such an important series as the new SILVER SURFER."

In the new series, we'll get to see a Surfer we've never been able to see before. There will be changes in the character due to circumstances and situations set up in the very first issue. "The basic difference is the Surfer's situation," explained writer Steve Englehart. "He's finally going to be free to soar the spaceways. He'll no longer be restricted to Earth."

In the very first issue, Steve and Marshall will resolve the Surfer's imprisonment. "We'll bring out a Silver Surfer capable of reaching his full potential," said Steve. "I found that when writing the character he becomes very different from what we've seen before without the shackles holding him down. It's like the 600-pound gorilla in the zoo, who is so far removed from his counterpart in the wild. A bit of the fire goes out of him in captivity. The same is true of the Surfer. He becomes less concerned with the terrible hand fate has dealt to him. He's very uplifted and expanded by being able to get out into deep space again."

Steve and Marshall are having a lot of fun working together on THE SILVER SURFER. "We've always enjoyed working with each other, and this project is coming together very nicely," said Steve. "I like Marshall's interpretation of the Surfer. He tries to understand the motivations and background of the characters he draws. Marshall has given us a character with the agility of the **John Buscema** Surfer and the power of the **Jack Kirby** Surfer.' Marshall felt that Kirby's interpretation was just a bit too bulky to move as a surfer would move, and that Buscema's was a Surfer caught up in inner anguish. Marshall tried to combine the best from these two very definite interpretations and then ran them through his inner computer to come up with a version that's all his own."

Marshall is really doing a lot with the Surfer as far as the visuals are concerned. "He's been reading books and studying photos that show what people look like when they're surfing. And then he's taking all this information and expanding it to show what it's like to surf through space," Steve added. "There's a sequence where the Surfer is soaring along and he begins to lean to the right. He just keeps leaning while flying straight ahead and soon rotates completely around. Marshall's concept of energy in space is cylindrical; there is no up or down. So there's no reason the Surfer has to fly that way. The artwork has a nice sense of the physics of space, and that's something I'm also trying to get across in the writing."

Steve is taking this project very seriously. He's been researching the actual physical dimensions of space. "I want to be able to understand it myself and get a sense of just how large the distances I'll be working with are. I want to grasp what nebulae and black holes really are and put the Surfer in that context," he explained. "I've done a number of series in the past that have had people in space, but I've never really tried to make space as big a part of the series as I am in THE SILVER SURFER. I want the readers to understand what it's like to be a solitary silver guy flying through the infinite void."

But with all this talk of space, the Surfer will still have very definite connections to Earth. "He was here long enough to have had a number of friendships develop," said Steve.

Those friendships will heighten the Surfer's anguish because he quickly discovers that both his home planet, Zenn-La and his adopted one, Earth, are not only targets in the galaxy-shattering second Kree-Skrull War but also pawns in the intergalactic machinations of the mysterious **Elders of the Universe!**

The Skrulls and **the Kree** are extraterrestrial humanoid races each possessing a vast interstellar empire. They have been competing since before our civilization was even beginning.

"Everybody remembers with great fondness the Kree-Skrull war that writer **Roy Thomas** and artist **Neal Adams** did way back when in THE AVENGERS. But if you go back and look at those stories, most of the war actually took place off-panel. What we were shown was the Avengers' part in it," said Steve. "What I want to do is get another one going that actualy rampages across the universe, touching

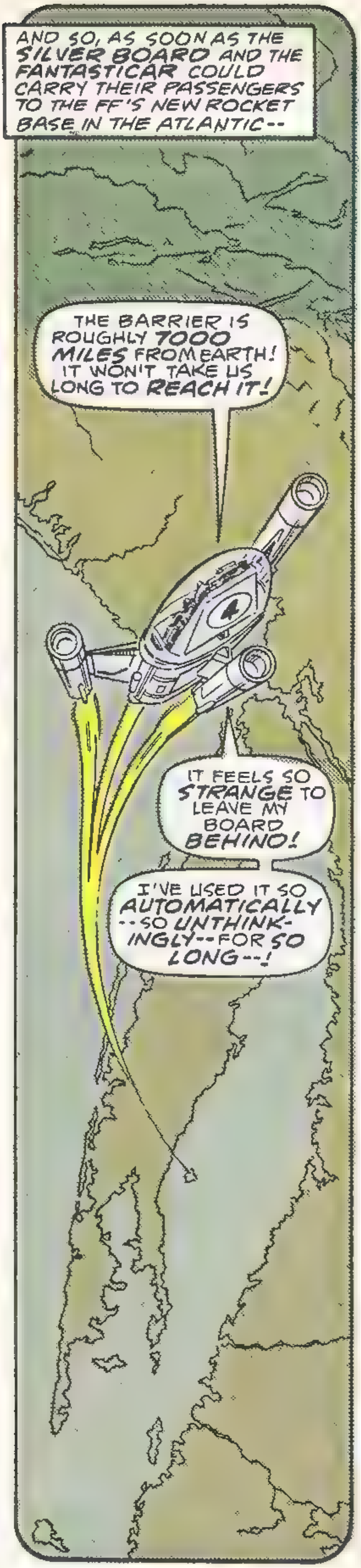
worlds form Zenn-La to Earth to a number of other places in between."

In the 1985 FANTASTIC FOUR and AVENGERS ANNUALS a crossover story was presented in which the Skrulls lost their shape-changing ability. "This ability was the Skrulls' major power, and it's been established that with the use of this power they were able to fight the Kree empire to pretty much of a standstill. They both have thousands of worlds under their control," explained Steve. "But over the last several hundred years or so that war has come to a halt because neither side could gain an advantage. Suddenly the Skrulls are deprived of their major power. What do you think is going to happen?"

Steve sees the Skrulls as rats caught in a trap. They are trying to conquer as much as they can before the Kree can figure out what has happened to them. "The Skrulls know that the Kree will come rolling in to crush them the first chance they get," he said. "So the Skrulls are trying to gather as much as they can. All of a sudden there's a very frantic scurrying around in the spaceways as these races get set for a war. And this war will in fact take place starting several issues into the new series."

The other major storyline in the first issues of THE SILVER SURFER involves the Elders of the Universe. Born at the dawn of time in galaxies scattered across space, **the Collector, Grandmaster, the Gardener, the Contemplator, the Possessor, Champion, and Runner** are all the last survivors of their respective races. Immortal, possessing vast power and technological ability, the only danger that they fear is the one of ennui, which would cause them to ultimately lose the will to live. Thus they conceive highly intricate, centuries-spanning games to keep them fascinated. The trouble is, their idea of fun and games is different—very different—from that of mortal races. The tale involving the Elders of the Universe will begin in THE SILVER SURFER and then, as Steve explained, "This summer's WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL and AVENGERS ANNUAL will feature

THE SILVER SURFER HAS FLOWN ALONE THROUGH THE INFINITE, AND CAN NEVER LIVE QUIETLY WITH LESS!
I WAS CERTAIN I COULD PREVAIL THIS TIME--
SURFER!
SURFER! HELLO!
AH! REED AND SUSAN --BENJAMIN-- JENNIFER--!
TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS PLEASURE OF A VISIT FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR?


AND SO, AS SOON AS THE SILVER BOARD AND THE FANTASTICAR COULD CARRY THEIR PASSENGERS TO THE FF'S NEW ROCKET BASE IN THE ATLANTIC--
THE BARRIER IS ROUGHLY 7000 MILES FROM EARTH! IT WON'T TAKE US LONG TO REACH IT!
IT FEELS SO STRANGE TO LEAVE MY BOARD BEHIND!
I'VE USED IT SO AUTOMATICALLY --SO UNTHINK-INGLY--FOR SO LONG--!

these beings and the Surfer will get involved in the action. The story takes place between issues #2 and #3 of the Surfer's book, and then resumes back there."

In the very first issue, the Fantastic Four will help free the Silver Surfer from his imprisonment on Earth. "The FF were there when the Surfer first arrived. It's only fitting they be there when he leaves," Steve explained. "And as the Kree-Skrull war heats up the Surfer will run into some of the other people that he knows."

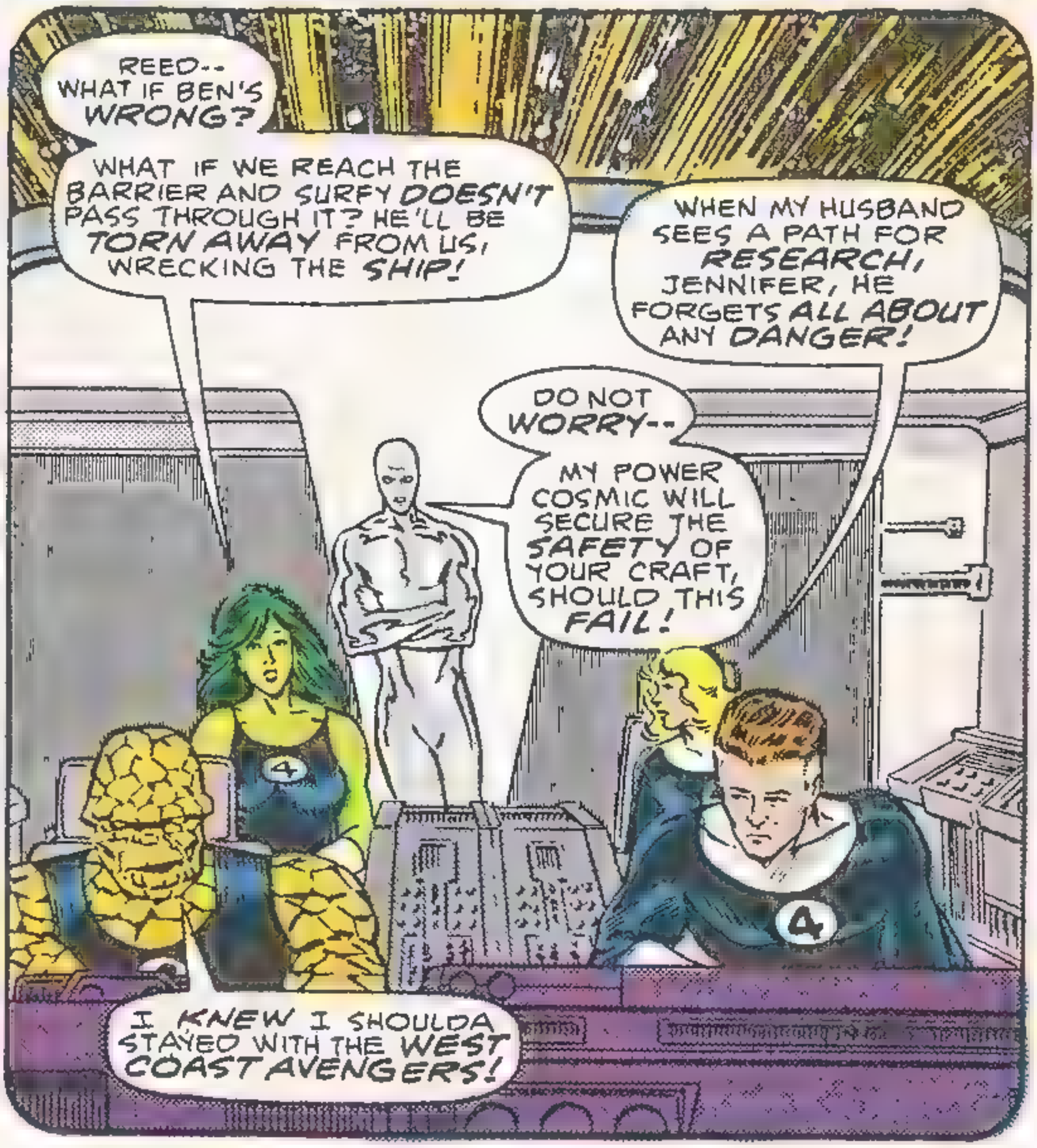
The second issue will feature the long-awaited reunion of the Silver Surfer and his beloved Shalla Bal. "But the reunion doesn't go the way either he or she had planned," Steve said. "It's a very nice story and I'll just say that in the end he doesn't settle down in a vine-covered cottage with his sweetheart."

What is it about the Silver Surfer that has made him a legend and kept him in demand even after all this time? "There's something about him. I feel it, but it's hard to explain." said Steve. "When the project first came around, my feeling was that the bulk of the comic readership wouldn't even know who the Surfer is, much less remember his legendary beginnings. So even though I might think this rebirth of the Silver Surfer series is a big deal, most people wouldn't. But I found that wasn't true. I found that most people who read comics know him, like him, and have been eagerly awaiting his promised return."

"When you first buy into the Marvel Universe you hear about this legendary silver character and even if you haven't seen him, he's one of those archetypes that you become aware of," explained Steve. "Lee and Kirby were at the height of their artistic powers when they created him, and Stan went on to do the ultimate Marvel Comic stories in the original SURFER series —perhaps the summation of his career. It only lasted eighteen issues, but it was something that was ahead of its time. The Silver Surfer was always positioned at the very top of the Marvel Universe and his mystique was enhanced by his limited appearances over the years. When he did appear, it was usually a special event."

From the moment he debuted, the Silver Surfer was regarded by fans as the acme of the Marvel Universe. And he has retained his pre-eminent position for over twenty years. As Steve reflected, "This puts an even bigger responsibility on me and Marshall. We have to use him correctly, keep him true to the legend. There is something special about the Silver Surfer, and we're very pleased we've been entrusted to continue his legend for a new generation."

—Bill Slavicsek


REED-- WHAT IF BEN'S WRONG?
WHAT IF WE REACH THE BARRIER AND SURFY DOESN'T PASS THROUGH IT? HE'LL BE TORN AWAY FROM US, WRECKING THE SHIP!
WHEN MY HUSBAND SEES A PATH FOR RESEARCH, JENNIFER, HE FORGETS ALL ABOUT ANY DANGER!
DO NOT WORRY-- MY POWER COSMIC WILL SECURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR CRAFT, SHOULD THIS FAIL!
I KNEW I SHOULDA STAYED WITH THE WEST COAST AVENGERS!

MARVEL 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTIES

The Funny Book Factory celebrates its fourth anniversary and Marvel's twenty-fifth anniversary with a big birthday cake.

When we came up with the idea of helping direct sales comic book shops across the country join in the celebration of Marvel's 25th Anniversary, not even we were prepared for the enthusiastic response! No sooner had we sent out the announcement about our nifty Marvel party kit with everything needed to throw a first class bash than the orders started pouring in. And once the retailers got their kit, that's when the fun really started! The first shindig was held on July 19th, and the parties have been rolling along ever since.

"I threw my first party to thank my customers for coming to my shop, and it went so well I'm planning my second party," **Gordon Chalmers** of Chalmers' Bookstore said. And Gordon isn't alone in his reactions. Everyone who has held a Marvel 25th Anniversary Party has been treated to a gala gathering as enthusiastic fans flocked in for the fun.

All store owners had to do was get in touch with mighty Marvel, itself. For a nominal fee retailers received complete party kits including all the party paraphernalia they needed to throw a first class bash. Some stores such as The Outer Limits, Inc. in East Meadow, N.Y., went one step further, arranging for appearances of **Spider-Man,** and artist **Art Adams,** and writer **Doug Murray.**

Lady Jayne's in Portland, Oregon, held a costume competition. Endless Universe in Mesa, Arizona, held a coloring contest. Flashpoint in Port Jefferson, N.Y., had a trivia contest and a spur-of-the-moment visit from Marvel's Direct Sales Manager and writer **Peter David.**

Pictured here are a handful of the rollicking party goers. Thus far store owners have held sixty parties nationwide. If your favorite comic book store hasn't had one yet, don't fret, yours might be one of the many places still planning one.

Some of the many costumed competitors at Lady Jayne s comic book store

STAR SPOTLIGHT

FOOFUR™

This May, a new series will join the Star Comics line-up—FOOFUR! Based on the popular Saturday morning cartoon show from Hanna-Barbera, FOOFUR will humorously present the adventures of a group of fun-loving dogs who have made an abandoned mansion their home.

Writing this new series is HEATHCLIFF scripter **Michael Gallagher.** FOOFUR ' penciler is **Ben Brown,** best known to Star readers as the penciler of WALLY THE WIZARD and inking the series is Star's versatile **Jacqueline Roettcher.** Star Comics' editor **Sid Jacobson** acclaims the work of all three creators. He specifically praises Brown's pencils on FOOFUR, comparing him to the great animators who made the Disney Studio's classic films.

The Foofer is the canine leader of a group of nine fellow dogs and one cat. They have no owners, and had been simply wandering around, living as best they could. At the time FOOFUR #1 opens, however, they've found their new home. The owner of a large mansion has decided to put the building up for sale, and when the human residents moved out, the Foofur moved in!

All is not comfort and joy for the furry friends, because they often have to hide from the real estate agent who brings prospective buyers around to take a look at the mansion. Obviously, the agent would not appreciate a pack of dogs (and one cat) living in a mansion which he's trying to sell, and the Foofur knows he'll be thrown out if he should ever find them!

Besides the Foofur, some of the other members of the group are **Hazel, Fencer, Burt, Dolly** and **Fritz-Carlos.** The series will also focus on their relationship with many of the other animals in the neighborhood.

Sid Jacobson says the tone of the book will be similar to that of the Disney classic, "101 Dalmations." He adds that the FOOFUR stories will function on two levels, in much the same way as the aforementioned film. First, we'll see the group's interaction with people, to whom the mutts will behave like ordinary dogs; that is, they won't speak or do anything else that we might consider "un-doglike." The second aspect deals with the animals' communication amongst themselves, during which scenes we'll see them chatting in everyday English. (This handy technique has saved many writers from the difficult task of trying to convey meaning through growls and woofs!)

Each issue of FOOFUR will contain three or four entertaining stories. As mentioned, the first issue is due out in May, the same month as Star's other new series, THE FLINTSTONE KIDS. Like that book, FOOFUR will appear each month, with a cover price of 75 cents for 32 pages of canine comic fun. Watch for its debut at your local Marvel outlet, and be kind to any stray abandoned mansions you see on the way!

—Ken Hart

FOOFUR © 1987 by Sepp/Phil Mendez

THE MARVEL AGE 1974 PT. III

Break out the funny hats and open the champagne! Because this time around, we're going to be looking at marriages, birthdays, and the debuts of a couple of new heroes—including a certain adamantium-boned mutant!

Family played a major role in the life of one of 1974's newest heroes. The fiendish **Dr. Fu Manchu** had raised his son to be the greatest assassin the world had ever known. The boy underwent strenuous training until he was truly SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU! But when **Shang-Chi** killed Fu Manchu's old enemy, the aged **Dr. Petrie,** Shang learned that it was his father, not Petrie, who was the real villain. Shang turned on Fu Manchu, and alongside the likes of the wise **Professor Nayland Smith** and the daring **Black Jack Tarr,** he dedicated his life to foiling his father's schemes. Of course, foiling his father's schemes meant fighting living skeletons and dozens of assassins, not to mention surviving Fu's plan to celebrate Shang's birthday by killing him, but no one ever said life was easy.

MARVEL PREMIERE featured another new hero who had also spent his life studying the martial arts. Scripters **Roy Thomas, Doug Moench,** and **Tony Isabella** and artists such as **Gil Kane** and newcomer **Larry Hama** (who'd later turn to writing on G.I. JOE) told the story of a young boy named **Danny Rand.** Danny had been climbing a mountain in the Far East with his parents and his father's partner, **Ward Meachum.** Meachum had long lusted after Danny's mother, and when his opportunity came, he killed Danny's father! Danny and his mother ran until his mother was killed by a pack of wolves. Now an orphan, Danny found sanctuary in the hidden city of K'un Lun. There, he was taught to become a living weapon, and when he killed the dragon, **Shao Lao,** he earned the power of **Iron Fist!** Years later, he returned to the outer world to take vengeance on Ward Meachum, even though that meant fighting his way past the hired killers, **the Scythe** and **Triple-Iron!** But when Iron Fist confronted the now elderly and crippled Meachum he couldn't kill him. Unfortunately, a mysterious ninja could—and did! Meachum's daughter, Joy, thought Iron Fist had killed her father. The circle of vengeance began to grow as Joy hired assassins such as **Captain America**'s old enemy **Batroc the Leaper** to kill her father's "murderer."

Family also played a role in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT as it featured **Daimon Hellstrom, the Son of Satan! Satan** had appeared to Daimon's mother as a handsome mortal. The pair soon married and had two children, Daimon and **Satana.** Daimon's mother never suspected a thing...until the day that she found Satana sacrificing her cat! Satan revealed himself, and Daimon's mother fled, only to be committed to an insane asylum when she told her story. Daimon was raised in a foster home, and when he grew up, he swore to fight his father, armed only with a mystic trident and chariot! At first, Daimon's satanic nature only became apparent at night, but on his birthday, his father gave him a "present"; from that moment on, he would constantly be at war with his evil side. That conflict didn't stop Daimon, though, and he fought Satan and his demons everywhere from St. Louis to the Nether-World.

With all of these family problems going around, it was good to see some actually work out well in THE FANTASTIC FOUR. As the year opened, **Sue Richards** had left her husband **Reed** after Reed was forced to throw their son **Franklin** into a coma rather than let his powers run amok. With **Medusa's** help, the remaining **Fantastic Four** members beat **Dr. Doom** and his latest creation, **Darkoth the Death-Demon,** but that wasn't much consolation when Sue went to live with **the Sub-Mariner!** Namor's intentions were completely honorable though; he pretended to attack the surface world and fight the FF to let Sue see how much Reed loved her. And it worked! Sue returned to the FF just in time to attend the wedding of the **Inhuman Crystal** and the mutant **Quicksilver.** What a wedding it was—the FF, the **Avengers,** and the Inhumans all attended. But so did the Avengers' old nemesis, **Ultron!** Ultron nearly destroyed everyone, but at the last minute Franklin broke out of his coma and beat the giant robot with his mental powers. At last, Quicksilver and Crystal were wed (although as readers of THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH Limited Series know, that marriage wouldn't last forever). Everyone celebrated, including the mighty **Femizon, Thundra,** who came to stay with the FF after Medusa left.

Meanwhile, the **Thing** became the star of his own brand new team-up series, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE! Bashful Benjy made sure he kept busy, joining forces with the likes of **Thor,** the Sub-Mariner, and the powerful but childlike alien, **Wundarr** (now known as **the Aquarian**). Even his present-day adventures weren't enough to hold the Thing, as he and Captain America traveled into the future to help the **Guardians of the Galaxy** overthrow **the Badoon,** an alien race who'd conquered our solar system!

Other members of the FF found things to do in the pages of MARVEL TEAM-UP. The trail of the alien, Omega Stone, led Mr. Fantastic and **Spider-Man** into a battle with the **Mole Man.** And **the Human Torch** kept himself occupied by fighting the likes of **the Hulk** and **Iceman** (all thanks to some pretty devious villains, of course).

Spider-Man also spent his share of time in the MARVEL TEAM-UP spotlight. He joined up with an incredibly wide range of heroes, including **Daredevil, Ka-Zar, the Black Panther,** and everybody's favorite voodoo priest, **Brother Voodoo!** And when **the Chameleon** disguised himself as **Rick Jones,** Spidey found himself fighting the Hulk!

Fighting the Hulk was bad enough, but the rest of SPIDER-MAN's year wasn't much better. No sooner had Spidey beaten the latest **Vulture** (the third, no less) than he wound up battling a new foe. This new foe didn't really think of himself as a villain; in fact, he had declared war on crime the day he became **the Punisher! The Jackal** had duped the Punisher into thinking that Spider-Man was a murderer, but after a fierce battle, Spidey managed to convice him that the Jackal had lied, and they parted amicably. With the Punisher taken care of, the wall-crawler fought **the Molten Man** and broke up a wedding between his **Aunt May** and...**Doctor Octopus?!** 1974 also saw the introduction of both **the Tarantula** and **the Grizzly.** But one of the greatest threats of the year came when Peter Parker's roommate, **Harry Osborn,** went insane and adopted his father's guise of **the Green Goblin.** The Goblin nearly killed Aunt May, but Spidey saved her and helped Harry get the psychiatric help he needed.

IRON MAN also found himself fighting a friend in 1974. Ex-boxer **Eddie March** had posed as **Iron Man** to fill in for **Tony Stark,** but was critically injured as a result. Tony knew that the only thing that could save Eddie was a device called **the Enervator.** But the Enervator had a strange side-effect—it turned Eddie into the savage, superstrong **Freak!** Fortunately, Iron Man stopped the Freak without harming him. But when Iron Man went to Vietnam for another friend, it looked like he might get a little harmed himself! He found himself caught in the middle of a titanic battle as **the Mandarin,** the

Unicorn, Sunfire and **Ultimo** took on the forces of **the Yellow Claw** and **the Black Lama**! With Sunfire's help, the armored Avenger defeated Ultimo and the Unicorn while the Yellow Claw took the Mandarin out of the picture. Before Iron Man could capture the Claw and the Black Lama, however, they escaped. The Black Lama would next appear in a rather unlikely setting, as we'll see when we get to 1975.

Speaking of unlikely settings. THOR spent a large chunk of 1974 in outer space! It began as he helped a knightly alien named **Avalon** free his people from enslavement at the hands of **Kragonn, Dark Lord of the Outer Realm**. Then it was off to Olympus to free an Asgardian woman who'd been kidnaped. But Thor thought the kidnaper was **Hercules**! The whole thing eventually got straightened out, and the two freed her from Hades, where **Pluto** and **Ares** had been holding her captive. When Thor and Hercules returned to Earth, they tried to fight off **Galactus**'s latest herald, **Firelord**, but to no avail! Galactus once more landed on Earth, but surprisingly, he hadn't come to eat; he'd come to ask Thor's help in fighting **Ego, the Living Planet**! Even though Thor and Herc helped end the menace of Ego, the year still ended with Hercules defeated by an unknown foe! Hmm...

Like Thor, THE INCREDIBLE HULK got around quite a bit in 1974. Ol' Greenskin was always where the action was, whether it meant fighting **the Colbalt Man** high above the Earth or battling the Inhumans in the Hidden Land. The Inhumans trapped the Hulk in a rocket and sent him off to Counter Earth, a world ruled by the evil **Man-Beast**. There, the Hulk met **Adam Warlock**, who led a band of rebels that wanted to overthrow the Man-Beast. The Hulk joined the rebels, but their fight against the Man-Beast cost Warlock his life. The Man-Beast has Warlock crucified, but even death couldn't stop Warlock! Warlock resurrected himself and turned the Man-Beast back into the wolf he'd evolved from. Warlock's friends were grateful to the Hulk and sent him back to Earth, where he landed in the Appalachian Mountains and fought his old enemy, **the Missing Link**. Then, it was off to Canada for a battle with the wild and woolly **Wendigo**. But the Hulk's battle with the Wendigo caught the attention of the Canadian government. The government decided to try out their newest project, Canada's fighting-mad answer to Captain America—**Wolverine**! Wolverine jumped into the fray with his claws at the ready. But once he helped the Hulk beat the Wendigo, he took on the Hulk himself! (The little guy was quite a scrapper, huh?) In the end, the Hulk was simply too poweful for the novice hero to defeat but even surviving an encounter with the Hulk is nothing to sneeze at!

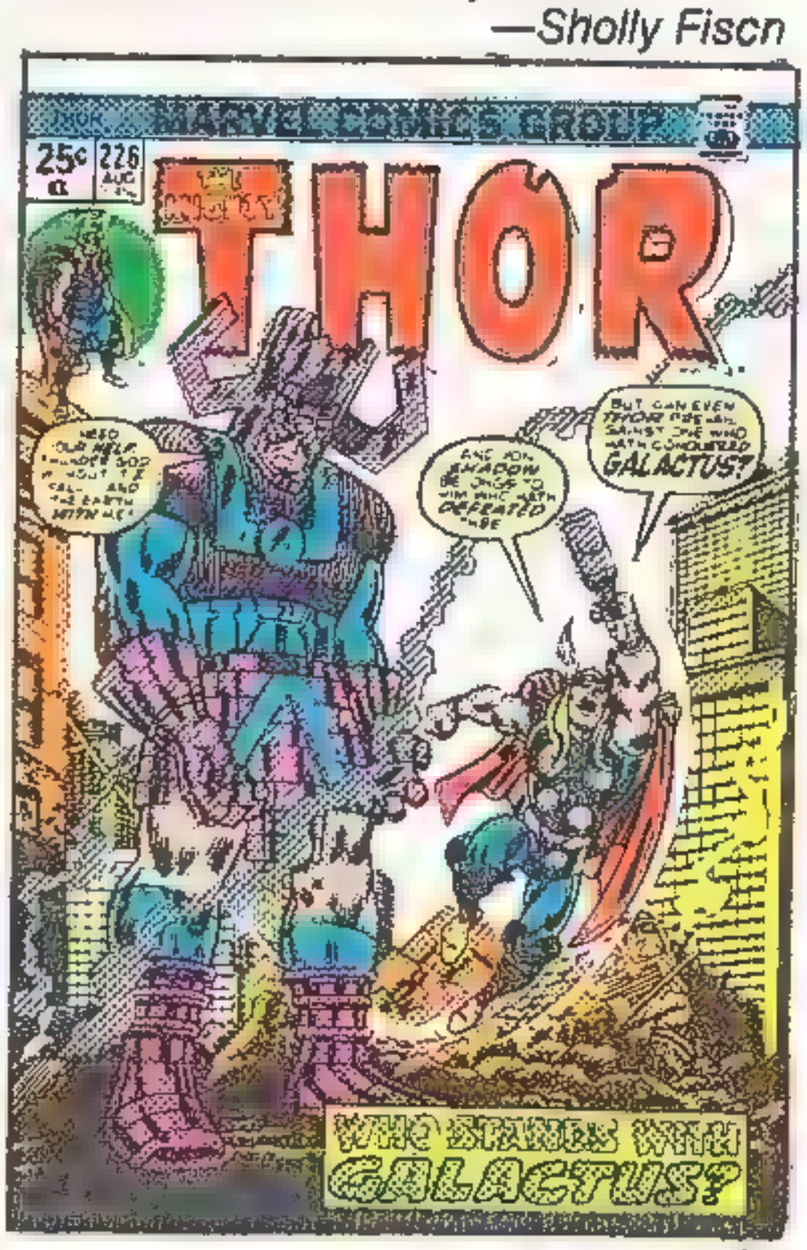
On that note, it's about time for us to bid "adieu". Next time around, we'll shift the focus to barbarians and monsters. Be here...if you dare.

—Sholly Fisch

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

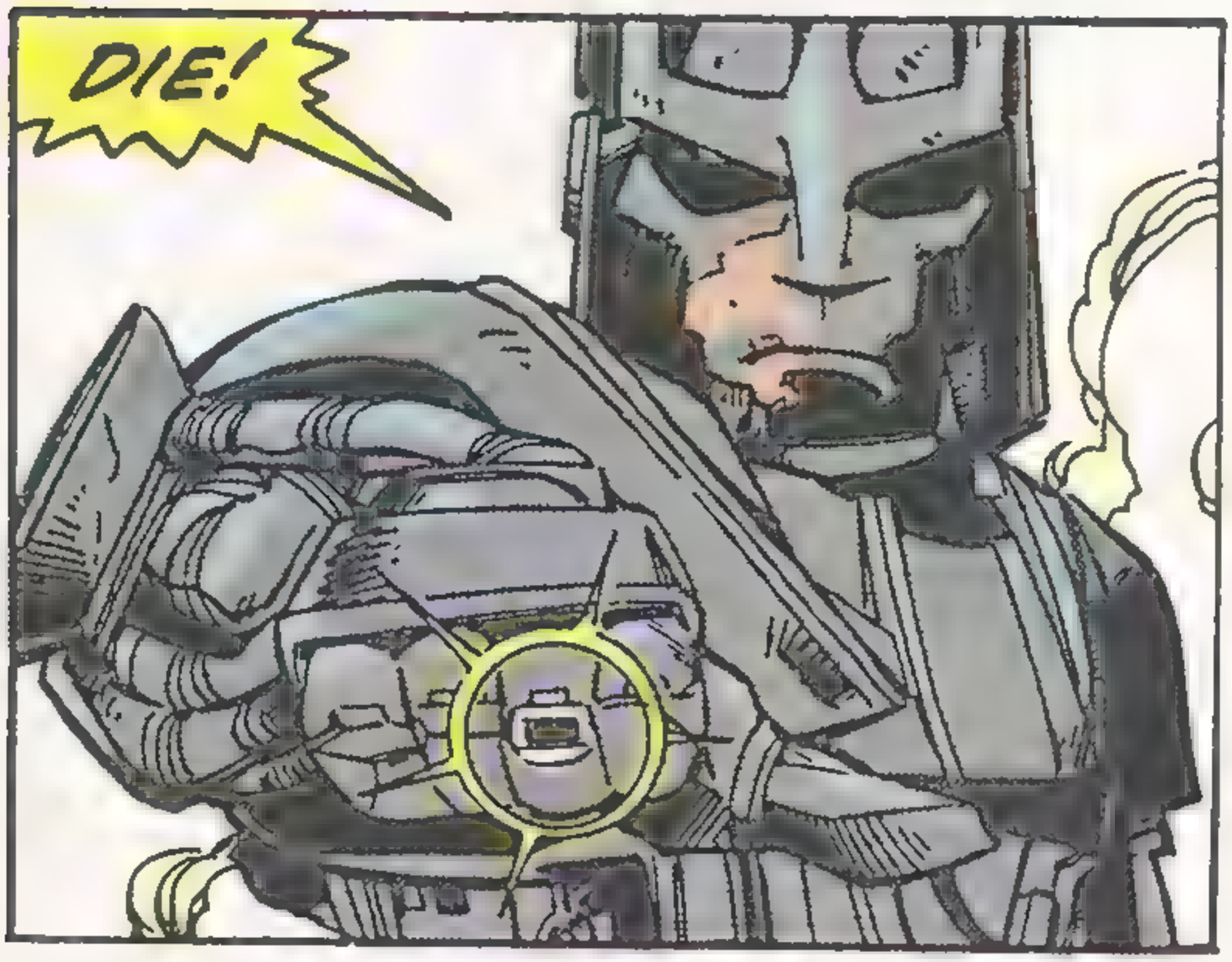
We sure looked at a lot of milestone issues this time around! If you'd like to get your own copies of them, here's what you can expect to pay at your local comics specialty shop. As usual, our source is **Robert Overstreet's THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #16**. But remember: This is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	**Fine**	**Mint**
■ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR**			
142–149	.30	.80	1.60
150 **Quicksilver-Crystal** wedding	.40	1.20	2.40
151–153	.30	.80	1.60
■ **GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU**			
1	.25	.75	1.50
2		.60	1.20
■ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK**			
171–175		.50	1.00
176–178 **Warlock** appears	.50	1.50	3.00
179		.50	1.00
180 1st app. **Wolverine** (cameo)	1.25	3.75	7.50
181 Wolverine appears	4.00	12.00	24.00
182	1.35	4.00	8.00
■ **IRON MAN**			
66–67	.30	1.00	2.00
68 Origin retold	.35	1.10	2.20
69–70	.30	1.00	2.00
71		.60	1.20
■ **MARVEL PREMIERE**			
13–14	.30	.80	1.60
15 1st. appearance **Iron Fist**	.85	2.50	5.00
16–20	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT**			
13–19		.40	.80
■ **MARVEL TEAM-UP**			
17–20	.50	1.50	3.00
21–28	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE**			
1	1.20	3.50	7.00
2–4	.60	1.75	3.50
5 **Guardians of Galaxy** appear	.70	2.00	4.00
6	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **MASTER OF KUNG FU** (a.k.a. **SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION**)			
15 1st appearance **Shang-Chi**		.60	1.20
16		.60	1.20
17	.40	1.20	2.40
18–20	.35	1.00	2.00
21		.60	1.20
■ **SPIDER-MAN**			
128–137	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **THOR**			
219–226		.50	1.00
227–230		.40	.80


MARVEL COMICS GROUP
25¢
226
THOR
BUT CAN EVEN THOR DREAM AGAINST ONE WHO HATH CONQUERED GALACTUS?
AND FOR SHADOW BE ONCE TO HIM WHO HATH DEFEATED HIME
WHO STANDS WITH GALACTUS?

The MARVEL MAIL MASSACRE

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group,
387 Park Avenue South, 9th Floor, New York, New York, 10016.



This month's letter column title comes to us from Adam Grabinski of Vernon, CT. Thanks, Adam! But... you didn't mean our letter columns are like massacres, did you?

We suspect that Adam was inspired by the recent Mutant Massacre, which is fairly appropriate since we have lots of letters about mutants this month. But before we get to them, we'd like to take a minute to remind all of you to send in letter column titles! We need a new one every month, twelve months every year, ten years every decade—well, maybe we're getting a little ahead of ourselves, there. Anyway, in addition to the glitzy title which will appear big and bold like what you see here, we'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks!" Remember: It's fun, it's easy, and...it's the law!

Dear Marvel Mail,

I have been a comic reader/collector for three years and I love all of your titles! With my limited knowledge of the Marvel Universe, I have noticed that the future could very possibly be domination of the U.S. or even the world by Sentinel robots. I just read the February issues of THE NEW MUTANTS and ALPHA FLIGHT and I noticed that Sentinels are being used more frequently in the latest stories. Could this be a harbinger of the future, of an all-out mutant vs. government (Project: Wideawake) war? I really don't want to see the Marvel world end this way, but maybe more stories about the other, future timeline would be interesting. How 'bout a new series depicting the lives (and deaths) of heroes during this conflict, with each issue spotlighting a hero or a group of heroes. Of course, if this really is the fate of the present Marvel World, you would use up all of the plots for comics in the future.

I am anxiously awaiting FALLEN ANGELS #1 and have been since you advertised THE MISFITS about a year ago. I hope it is worth the wait.

Bravo to Marvel Productions for their new cartoons this fall. But I have a suggestion that many readers would agree with. Please, oh please make an X-MEN series! I bet it would raise X-MEN's already amazing readership, and I bet many X-Fans would be thrilled to see those uncanny mutants on TV.

I hope you seriously consider my suggestions, and until X-MEN is canceled (sound familiar?), MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Dave Dunstan
330 Marshall Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Considering that the X-Men have seen a possible future world where mutants are routinely hunted down and killed by Sentinels, Dave, we'd be willing to bet that the folks at Xavier's School aren't going to sit around quietly and let it happen! Whether or not they succeed...well, that's another question.

In the meantime, now that you've seen FALLEN ANGELS #1, we hope you think it was worth the wait!

And as for your suggestion about an X-MEN TV show, well, actually an X-MEN TV pilot was made some time back as part of the Saturday morning program, SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS! Professor X, Storm, Cyclops, and even Wolverine turned up, which wasn't too surprising since Iceman was one of Spidey's Amazing Friends.

We'd love nothing more than to see our misunderstood band of mutants on television. And now that we're a part of New World Pictures and New World Television, you can bet that we'll be redoubling our efforts to get mutants on the screen—big and small!

Dear Marvel,

I have bought your title, CLASSIC X-MEN, since it started and I have a couple questions:

Will it reprint the Byrne/Claremont stories also?

If not, would you consider reprinting those stories? I love 'em, but I can't afford to buy them.

Thank you for your time and please think about it. I'm sure there are others out there who would like to see those tales reprinted.

Joe Parker
2637 Grafton Drive
Orange Park, FL 32073

To tell you the truth, Joe, we're among those "others" who'd like to see those stories reprinted! We wouldn't dream of leaving them out. But since all the stories starring the new X-Men are being reprinted in order, the first Claremont/Byrne story won't be turning up until about issue #16 or so. All we can say is be patient, because even if they're a little late in coming—those stories are definitely on the way!

Dear Marvel,

After reading your letters column in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #47, I would like to know why you didn't start off CLASSIC X-MEN from the first issue of X-MEN instead of starting with issue #1 of GIANT-SIZE X-MEN?

Anyway, what I really wrote to you about is why don't you write another BEAST Limited Series? I am personally an **X-Factor (Beast)** fan and I think it would be very successful.

What is this I hear about a THING Limited Series?

And what happened to him in WEST COAST AVENGERS?

Well, until **Tigra** marries **Wolverine,** Make Mine Marvel!

Mike Jorgensen
14 Westview Ave.
Tuckahoe, NY 10707

We don't know, Mike, what *is* this you hear about a THING Limited Series?

Actually, the Thing has his hands full right now with upcoming events in THE FANTASTIC FOUR (including some possible changes in the team's line-up!), so that should occupy ol' Blue Eyes for a while. What happened to him in WEST COAST AVENGERS was that he started to mutate even further, but fortunately, the problem seems to have subsided...at least for now.

To answer your question about CLASSIC X-MEN: like we told Joe, the series is reprinting all of the stories starring the *new* X-Men, starting with their first appearance in GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1. Actually, some of the original X-Men's (or should we say "X-Factor's") early adventures were reprinted a couple of years ago in the second series of AMAZING ADVENTURES. And before that, X-MEN #s 67-93 reprinted the early adventures.

But you know, a new reprint series doesn't sound bad. But a second Limited Series starring Hank McCoy is a pretty beastly idea!

Dear Marvelites,

All your comics are great! Just one thing, though. **The Punisher** has been around for a long time. He's even had his own Limited Series. So, why don't you give him an unlimited series, huh? Anyone who reads this magazine and likes the Punisher, write in! Well, until **the Human Torch** freezes over, Make Mine Marvel!

David Eddison
2584 Trident Avenue
Mississauga, Ontario
L5B 2L4
CANADA

Your wish is our command, David! As you probably know by now, the Punisher is now the star of his own regular series, written by Mike Baron and drawn by Klaus Janson. See what a letter to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE can do?

And now it's time for our (ta-ta-ta-TAAA!) LETTER OF THE MONTH! Every thirty days or so we reach into our mighty MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE Mailbag and pull out a letter that is so informative, so provocative, so outrageous, or so darn funny that we just gotta do something special with it and that something special is to print it right here in this big patch of yellow and call it our Letter Of The Month. Sometimes we've even printed Letters Of The Month. This time around, we got one from far-off Singapore. And so, without any further ado...

Dear Marvelous Marvel Agers,

I have been a comic fan for a few years now, and I'm glad to say that Marvel has always been my favorite. But every time I pick up a comic book I wonder what it takes to produce it. Please tell me the steps it takes and the people involved and the roles that they play in producing a Marvel comic book and satisfy my hungry curiosity. Till **the Sub-Mariner** changes his swimming trunks, Make Mine Marvel.

Christopher Leong
46 Chuan Garden
Singapore 1955
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Whew, Christopher, explaining all of the steps involved in producing a Marvel Comic could fill a book! In fact, it *has* filled a book—THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK!

Here's a *brief* description of the process:

First, the writer writes a plot outline. The outline goes to the penciler, who draws it (in pencil, of course). Then, the art is sent back to the writer, who creates the dialogue, sound effects, and so on. The letterer adds the writer's words to the penciled pages, and the inker then embellishes the penciler's drawings in ink. Finally, the colorist colors the story. And the whole kit an' kaboodle is overseen by the editor at every stage.

Actually, there's even more to it than that. You can get some more of the details from the article on Marvel's production department in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #46.

And all these years, everyone thought it was done by elves...

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

This is the third time I have started collecting comics. I would like to say thanks for having MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. This helps me find out what comics are coming out.

The main reason I wrote this letter was to ask you to ask the writers of MARVEL TALES to number each comic which was reprinted. The reason I would like to know is that I have read some great MARVEL TALES stories which I'd like to buy in the original, but I didn't know the issue numbers.

I would also like to know which issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN did **Gwen Stacey** and the **Green Goblin** die?

Kim Y. Lam
30-41 74th St.
Jackson Heights, NY 11370

WHAT? You mean MARVEL TALES hasn't been mentioning where the stories originally appeared?! We'll see about that! Where's that baseball bat?

Hi. We're back. Don't worry, Kim. MARVEL TALES will now mention where the stories originally appeared.

Oh, by the way, Gwen Stacey died in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #121 and the Green Goblin followed in #122.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Since this letter pertains to eight different titles, I decided MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE would be best for it.

You see, I have two questions about the New Universe. The first is, if the New Universe is supposed to be the world outside my window, how come nobody ever has to go to the washroom, eh? The second question is, why aren't there any Canadians in the New Universe? Not even a villain. It has been stated the White Event covered the Earth, so it must have had some effect on at least one measly Canuck, eh?

Until Wolvie carves up **Peter** for a new beer bottle opener, Make Mine Marvel!

Travis Smith
33 Spring Field Road
Brantford, Ontario
N3R 1N4
CANADA

So you want to see characters in washrooms, eh, Travis? Well, then, you're bound to love our newest upcoming series, THE MYSTERIOUS MR. BUBBLE WITH SUDSY THE KLEANSER KID!

Of course, characters in the New Universe go to the washroom. It's

just that they're too polite to talk about it in front of thousands of readers.

And as for why no Canadians were affected by the White Event: who says they weren't? The fact that we haven't seen any Canadians so far doesn't mean there aren't any lurking around out there. Who knows what future issues will bring?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I just picked up MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #47 and something in your letter page column caught my attention. I noticed that there were a few letters dealing with the subject of **Wolverine**'s past and the possibility of a Limited Series. Well, I'm writing to you to cast my vote. I think it would be a good idea to have Wolverine in a series by himself, dealing directly with his mysterious background. But I would also like to hear from some other readers on this subject.

Darrin Bedenfield
Chicago, IL

Okay. Well, other readers...?

Dear Marvel Agers,

In the last two years, I've bought approximately eight different Marvel comics that have two covers. I was wondering if the value of these comics was more, less, or the same as a single cover comic.

Brad Bliss
(address withheld by request)

Actually, Brad, we've heard various opinions on this topic. Some people figure that such printing errors are rare, issues with two covers are collectors' items and worth more. But other people consider them to be of no more than curiosity value. What it really comes down to is: They're worth whatever people are willing to pay for them.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I would like you to know I have been collecting your comics for almost two years now, and I am very familiar with the Marvel Universe. And I love your comics which are filled with great stories, plots, and artwork (X-FACTOR, POWER PACK, X-MEN, all three **Spider-Man** titles, and DAREDEVIL to name a very few).

By the way, I recently noticed from X-MEN #214 that there wasn't a little symbol in the square box in the bottom left hand corner. Does this mean that X-MEN is only going to be sold in comic specialty shops? I mean, POWER PACK and most other direct sales only titles do not have the symbols either, you know. Not that I really care, just curious.

I'd also like you to know that **Louise Simonson,** in my opinion, is the greatest writer at Marvel. And I'd like Louise to know that this is one fan who is with her all the way—and that she better not be planning to retire any time soon.

Mike White
2554 Lincolton Parkway
Hepzibah, GA 30815

Aw, c'mon, Mike, you can't fool us. You really do care how our ace cover girl—as in designer—Dawn Geiger assembles all our covers! You just thought by saying you didn't that you'd get your batty Bullpen to answer your question.

Well, you're right! No, THE UNCANNY-X-MEN isn't going to be direct sales only. The reason that there was no Universal Price Code (that's that boxed computer code you see on magazine covers, and on a whole lot of other things—especially food products) is that you probably bought it at a comics specialty shop. In fact if you look at the cover of this very issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE you'll see that it doesn't have a UPC code either. Copies of comics sold on newsstands have to have UPC codes. Copies sold through comics specialty shops don't, so whenever we can we like to leave off the UPC code and show you a bit more of the art on the cover.

And don't worry. Louise isn't retiring any time soon. She's having too much fun!

Dear Marvel,

Why is it that when you write footnotes in your comic book such as "In X-MEN #213" you write a name after it? I'm confused!

Patrick J. Sullivan
Buffalo, NY

Well, "Confused"—we mean Patrick—the name at the end of a footnote is the name of the editor who wrote it. It's there for the same reason that your name is at the end of your letter: It's a signature.

And speaking of signatures, it's about time we signed off for another month. But we'll be right back here, a-pickin' and a-grinnin' for ya, in thirty short days (or twenty real long ones). See you then.

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. **Bobbi Morse,** who used to run around the jungle with Ka-Zar, now runs around the West Coast with **Hawkeye!**

2. **Lylla,** perhaps the loveliest otter ever to appear in Marvel Comics!

3. **Arcanna Jones,** who has another distinction: the most fertile heroine ever to appear in Marvel Comics! (Must be that ol' black magic...)

4. **Jenette Miller,** one of that last remaining residents of Cocoa Beach after the Martians came.

5. **Allison,** of course!

6. **Marsha Rosenberg, Volcana,** enjoys quiet evenings of television and pizza with her beau, **Owen Reece, the Molecule Man.**

7. **Tigra,** aka **Greer Grant Nelson,** was once married to the late policeman, **Bill Nelson.** (I've always had a weakness for these characters' names somehow.)

8. Just because he had a tail and was covered with fur, don't say you've forgotten **Shanna**'s short-lived husband, **Mele?**

9. **Colleen** did some big-time flirting with **Scott Summers,** but is spending her romantic time a bit more profitably these days with **Bob Diamond,** once of the **Sons of the Tiger.**

10. That **Clive,** sooner or later he was going to hit on the secretary, right? His most successful relationship turned out to be with the unexpectedly resourceful **Melissa Greville.**

11. **Dr. Minerva,** who posed one of the strangest threats ever to be faced by **Captain Marvel!**

12. **Roxie Gilbert,** sister to the late villain, **Firebrand.**

13. **Carina Walters;** will we ever forget her tragic love, her sad death, or how great she looked in shorts?

14. **Zephra,** a real tiger of a woman!

15. **Tamara,** whose name could be the subject of so many bad puns that we won't even begin!

16. **Diane Arliss,** also a sister to a super-villain (**Tiger Shark,** to be specific)!

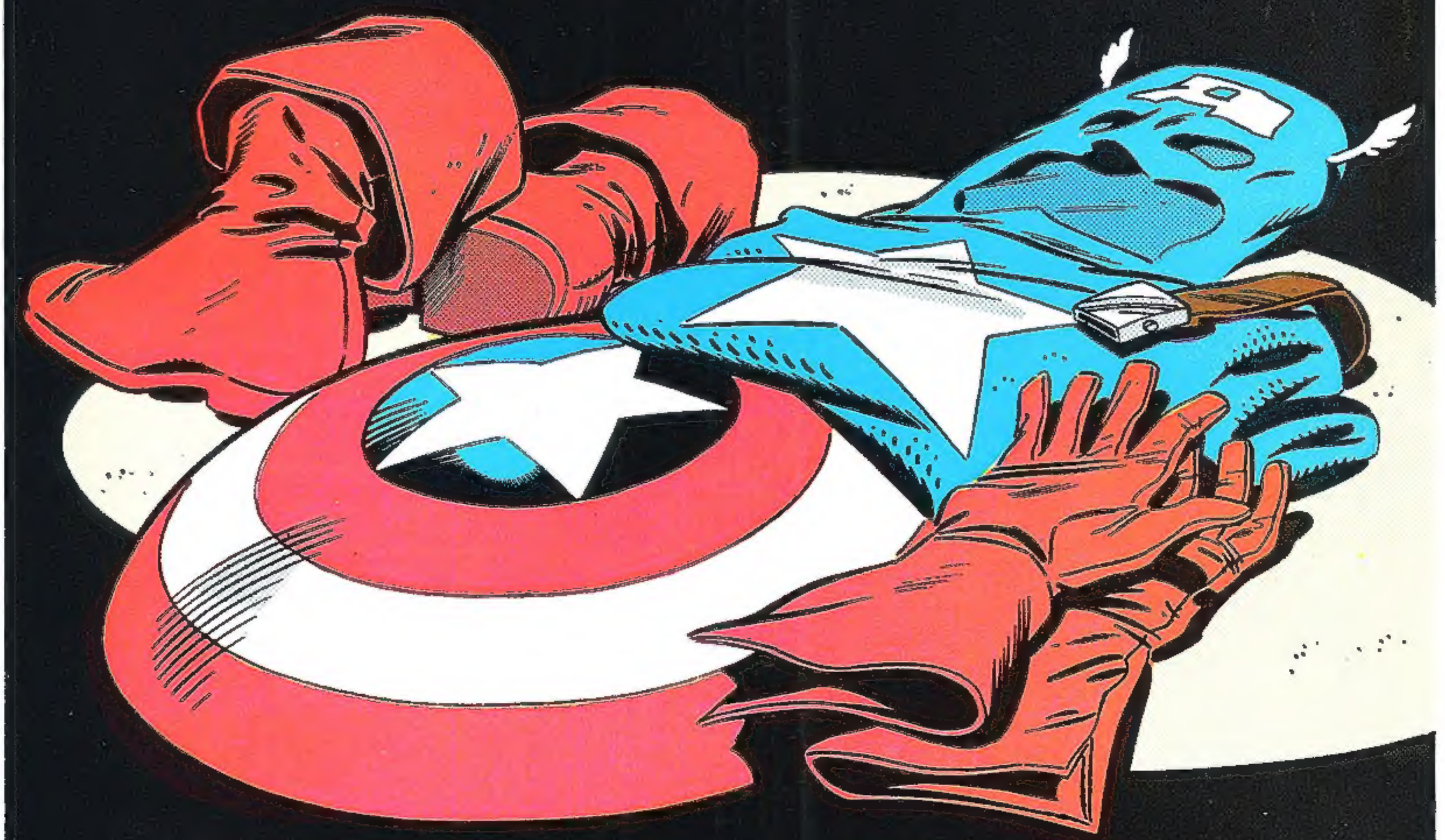
17. **Whitney Frost,** who herself turned out to be a villainess, the nefarious **Madame Masque!**

18. **Laura Brown;** who else would take **Nick Fury** to see **Country Joe and the Fish?**

19. **Lady Pam Hawley,** who died thinking of her wonderful American sergeant.

20. **Crystal** and **Dorrie Evans,** naturally (though who knows what **Frankie Raye** may be doing off in space)!

PRESIDENT FIRES CAP



BEGINNING IN ISSUE #332

A CAPTAIN AMERICA YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

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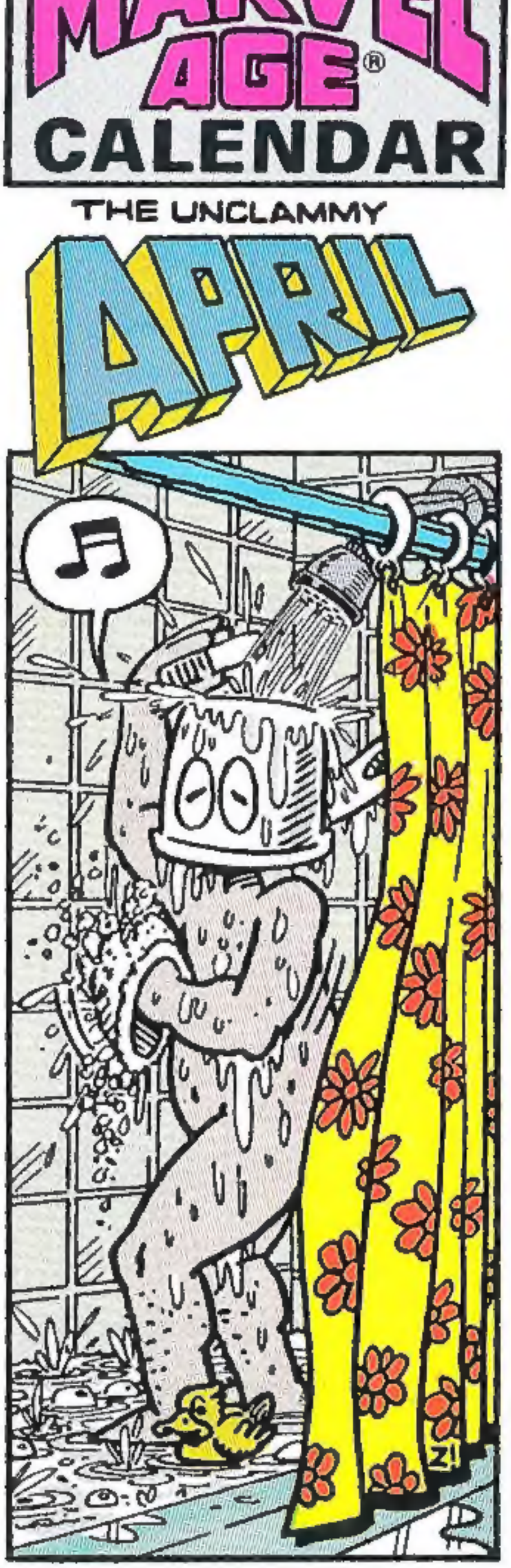
THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

THE UNCLAMMY

APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
5	HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, BILLY? DON'T TALK TO STRANGE MEN! 6	D.P. 7
12 CRACK! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARRY EISENSTEIN, YESTERDAY!	13 WHAT KIND OF COMICS DO I READ?	14 WHY S7 BRAND COUR STAR
EASTER! BUT I THOUGHT I WAS A MARCH HARE! 19	SECRETS OF THE STARS: HOW DAZZLER TUNES UP! TOING! MI, MI, MI! 20	21
TODAY IS KERRY GAMMIL'S BIRTH-DAY! I AM HURRYIN'! 26	27	KARNAK SE HERC, MERC AND TURK

MIKE CARLIN—WRITER **RON ZALME**—ARTIST **PAUL BECTON**—COLOR

AY

WEDNESDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BILL OAKLEY!

HEAD BANGER

HEAVY.

1

THURSDAY

YESTERDAY WAS ALSO APRIL FOOLS DAY... NO OFFENSE, BILL.

2

FRIDAY

3

SATURDAY

FORE!

WHAP!

I'M CRUEL AND INHUMAN! HA HA HA!

8

MAD MAXIMUS

(RING AROUND THE COLLAR)?

HEY!

9

OFT ASKED QUESTIONS: 10

HOW COME, WHEN THE SUB-MARINER'S ON LAND, HE DOESN'T WEAR SHOES?

YOU EVER TRY TO FIND HIGH-TOPS WITH ANKLES LIKE THESE?

11

TAR OF SE!

15

MEATHEADS

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY, KIM DE MULDER!

16

IT'S EARL NOREM'S BIRTHDAY!

HEY! THAT TICKLES!

17

18

22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, STEVE ENGLEHART!

23 WANT MORE PULSATING COMEDY?! WRITE IN AND ASK FOR US!

PALEEEZ!

C!

Z!

WRITER

ARTIST

24

IT'S PETER SANDERSON'S BIRTHDAY!

NEW! IMPROVED!

25

Z:

...NAME A GUY WHO'S A GOD, A GUY WITH A ROD, AND A GUY WHO'S A CLOD!

28

29

30

AND DON'T COME OUT OF THE CORNER 'TIL YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON!

NOW I KNOW WHY THEY CALL HIM THE PUNISHER.

19

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IST